September 12,1983

Dear Rev. Marge,

Well, the time draws nearer! We are gearing up for your arrival. I wanted to suggest that you phone one of us the day or two before you arrive so that we can have the necessary person-power available for any unloading. We could have people on standby. I know you cannot pinpoint the exact hour of arrival, but within several hours would do. Phone #'s: Micki 904-476-1423
George 904-243-8352
Steve 904-434-1632
Micki will probably be the best first try. She would stay around the phone on the day of arrival and we would check with her.

We had a fellow stop by the church yesterday seeking financial help. He said that Gil Lincoln told him to come to us for assistance. We were burned very badly by one such person this summer, so we called Rev. Lincoln. The main reason for bringing this up is that Steve told him we were looking forward to his visit in October. He said that he really wanted to be here and that he planned to make every effort. However, he told Steve that he no longer had a salaried position with the church in Nashville. He did not go into detail and ofcourse Steve did not ask. What do you make of the situation?

Yesterday, Sunday, went very well....37 in attendance for the morning service and 21 for the evening service. Several visitors. I believe 3 in the morning and 6 at night. We had 4 girls, women, females (take your pick) oh yes, people.... kidding a little bit, but I have become so conscience of labels that I really have to stop and think....which ain't a bad idea at all times. Anyway, it's great to have visitors and to have them be very receptive to us. I don't really know why, but people seem to have such gross preconceived ideas about us. Usually a visit dispells any false thoughts they might have toward us. It is especially good to have people from the Ft. Walton area....it is really an untapped area as far as church goers are concerned. We have a rather large gay population that know nothing about UFMCC....We must change that! At one time, when I first become involved with MCC, about %40 of the congregation was from Ft. Walton. Some have now moved to Pensacola and some ofcourse have moved away from the area. I visualize car pooling and mini buses making a Sunday run loaded with people from here. Maybe it's not all fantasy.

This may be my last letter to you before you leave. If it is, your safe journey has been in our public and private prayers for some time now. We hope you have a pleasant trip and it is not too tiring.

We love you both.....

George

9d
AB
N6

George Downing
P.O.Box 131
Ft. Walton Beach, Fl 32549

PENSACOLA, FL 325
PM
12 SEP
1983

Rev. Marge Ragona
223 Highland Ave.
Somerville, Ma 02143

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I have heard that over and over again for the last few weeks, and for me it comes as a very clear call that this is the direction which this church must take if it is going to grow, if it is to feed people, if it is going to be a church that all of us want it to be. I hear it and I answer it by saying to you, "I hold out to you that which is truly bread and not a stone, that which is the bread of life." The center of our Christian experience is still Jesus Christ, the person, the One whom we must follow down the corridor to the Light, and by that Light we will be enabled to see each other, and our needs, and be able to reach out in love and concern, and feed each other for the journey. This church is moving. It has taken us some time to get there, but I honestly believe, that if we go in the direction that people have very clearly told us is the way they want this church to go that there will be a resurrection and a renewal and an opening up of people's spiritual lives to the one direction the Christian church has, the direction offered us by Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN: "Lead On, O Cloud of Yahweh" (The journey is our home.)

Rev. Marge Ragona

This sermon is based on Word in Deed by Gabriel Fackre.

I have heard that over and over again in the last few weeks, and not so long ago in a very clear cut way. It is the Holy Ghost who will bring about what is to going to come. If it is be need people, if it is going to be a church that all of us want it to be. I hear it and I answer it by saying to you, "I want our to you that which is truly brave and not a mouse," what ever is the bread of life." The center of our christian experience is still Jesus Christ, the mission, the one who we must follow down the corridor to the light, and by that light we will be enabled to see each other, and our needs, and be able to speak out in love and concern, and lead each other for this journey. While about it moving. It has taken a back view to get there, but I honestly believe, that if we go in the direction that God has very clearly told us in the word. What this church to be just there will be a resurrection and a renewal and be a place of people's spiritual lives in the one direction the Lord in Christ has the direction offered us by Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN: "Lead On, O King of Kings" (The journey is on, notes)

Rev. Mayne Sayers

This service is based on Mord in Jesus by Harold Kushner.

Are you an active member,
The kind that would be missed,
Or are you just contented
That your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings,
And mingle with the flock,
Or do you stay at home
And criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part
To help the work go along,
Are are you satisfied to be
The kind that just belongs?

Do you ever work on committees,
To see there is no trick?
Or leave the work to just a few
And talk about "the clique."

So come to the meetings often
And help with hand and heart.
Don't be just a member,
Bust take an active part.

Think it over, members
You know right from wrong.
Are you an active member --
Or do you just belong.

Stolen from The Voice
Newsletter of MCC Sarasota, Fla.

No church grows if we just keep sitting in the pew s. No one comes to church unless we invite them. Over 50% of the people who eventually join a church were brought by a friend. People who are not involved, are the first to leave. Think about it -- what's your level of involvement?

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE
134 Mathewson Street Providence, Rhode Island
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (401) 272-9247

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

Singspiration Announcements Meditation

Call to Worship:
L: Thou, O Lord, art enthroned forever; thy name endures to all generations.
P: Let this be recorded for a generation to come, so that a people yet unborn may praise the Lord:
L: God looked down from the heights, from heaven the Lord looked at the earth to hear the groans of the prisoners;
P: To set free those who were doomed to die; that we might declare the name of the Lord and God's praise.
L: Of old thou didst lay the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of thy hands.
P: They will perish, but thou dost endure; they will wear out like a garment.
L: Thou changest them like raiment, and they pass away;
P: But thou art the same, and thy years have no end.

Opening Hymn: We Three Kings Red #30

Opening Prayer

Reading from the Scripture: Isaiah 55:6-13
Luke 2:21-32
Hebrews 1:1-12

Sermon

HYMN: There's a Church Within Us Lav.#54

Prayers of the People
Response - Hear Our Prayers

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings
Doxology

Prayer of Confession:
God, We come to you knowing that sometimes without meaning to, we seek you only to ask for special favors. We ask for your direction in our lives only when it coincides with our own intent. We want your power only when it will help us with our own pet projects. We ask your sanction for our ambitions. Help us to listen for what is your will in our lives. Help us to be open to being used by you, rather than trying to use you. In Christ's name we pray the prayer we were taught: "Our Creator..."

The Lord's Supper.

Sung Thanksgiving:
Now Our God is with us, let us make thanksgiving
For the joy within us living.
In this holy temple, at this holy table,
Hope and life thou wilt enable.
Now we leave and believe
That God will restore us
For the work before us. Amen.

Closing Hymn: I Have Decided to Follow Jesu
Lav. 51

Benediction/Passing of the Peace

* * * * * * * *

We welcome you to Metropolitan Community Church of Providence. We are one of over 120 MCC's throughout the United States and in nearly every English-speaking country in the world. Worship with us when you are able. We value your presence and would like you to feel at home with us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, January 9: 7:30 p.m. First Rap in our new weries. Topic "Homosexual, Bisexual or What?" (at 5 Junction Street)

Thursday, January 11: Bible Study at the Parsonage. Read Romans.

Sunday, January 14, 7:00 p.m. Our Guest preacher is Rev. Dr. Paul Gillespie, Executive Minister of the Rhode Island Council of Churches. Please tell your friends and be with us for this special service.

Monday, January 15: Board Meeting at the Parsonage.

Wednesday, January 24, 7:30 p.m. Movie Night: "The Boys in the Band." Tell your friends and let's make this a successful fund-raiser for the church.

NORTHEAST DISTRICT CONFERENCE at MCC Hispana, Feb. 2,3,4. Please set this time aside for going to New York and meeting with our friends ffom the District. Exhorters are reminded that there will be a district-wide meeting of exhorters on Friday, February 2nd, from 7-9p.m. during the conference. An important meeting of the Women's Task Force will also be held, dealing with rewording the Declaration of Faith of the Fellowship. Other workshops and meetings will be of equal importance. Please plan to attend.

Do we want another Flea Market in February? Anyone interested in working on one, please see the pastor — this may be a good way to clear out items which were replaced at Christmas or following the fire, etc. Also it will give us money we do not have to put out much money to earn.

Your prayers are sought for Susan Daum (of Margaret and Sue.) There is a possibility of her having cancer and being seriously ill. She is entering the hospital for tests tomorrow.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE
134 Mathewson Street Providence, Rhode Is.
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (401)272-9247

Fourth Sunday in Epiphany
January 29, 1978

SINGSPIRATION ANNOUNCEMENTS MEDITATION

Call to Worship:
L: Let us worship, not in bowing down, not with closed eyes and stopped ears.
P: Let us worship with the opening of all the windows of our beings, with the full outstretching of our spirits.
L: Let life come with singing and laughter, with tears and confiding, with a rising wave too great to be held in the mind and heart and body, to those who have fallen in love with life, and fallen in love with people.
P: Let us worship, and let us learn to love.

OPENING HUMN: From All that Dwell MH 14

Invocation
Reading from the Scripture: Hos.6:4-6
Matt 5:1-16

Sermon: Rev. Marge Ragona

Hymn: You Don't Reach Out by Pushin'

Worship with our Tithes and Offerings
Doxology

Prayers of the People, Confession, followed by the Lord's Prayer (Our Creator...)
Response: Hear, O Lord, the Sound of my Voice

Communion Hymn: Brdk Thou the Bread of life (Evang. Hymn: 162)

The Lord's Supper

Prayer of Thanksgiving
Sung Thanksgiving:
Now our God is with us,
Let us make Thanksgiving
For the joy within us living
In this holy temple, at this holy table
Hope and life God will enable.
Now we leave and believe
That God will resote us, for the work before us.

Closing Hymn: Trust & Obey Ev.Hymn: 86
Benediction

* * * * * * *

Yesterday we held the Systematic Training in Effective Parenting Workshop. It was a valuable time for many of us. We will try to arrange a second session in February. All parents and those involved with children are invited.

Tuesday: Jan 31, 7:30 p.m. Gay Political Caudus meeting at 55 Eddy Street. All are invited.

Wednesday: Potluck at the Parsonage. 7:30.

Beginning Friday, District Conference in Hartford, Feb. 3-5.

February 8-No Potluck at the Parsonage. Ash Wednesday -- HOWEVER, there will be a Hearing on the Gay Rights Bill at City Hall. Let's talk about which is more important, and make a decision as to our plans.

Friday, February 10- POTLUCK AT THE PARSONAGE. Service following, with Rev. Nancy Wilson, Elder, U.F.M.C.C. Everybne should plan to attend. and welcome Rev. Nan.

You DON'T REACH OUT BY PUSHIN'

Christians like to think that we're
At bit beyond the rest
If what we've got aint perfect,
It's just a bit below the best.
Well in this crowded world of ours,
Somethin's got to give, [illegible] n't you
And don't you think that maybe
It's the way we Christians live?

Chorus:
You don't reach out by pushin'
Nor give gifts with a shove,
You share the things and your own life
You offer them with love.
You recognize and celebrate
God's whole family
Jesus said, What you're doin' to the
least of these
You're doin' unto me.

Our lives seem pretty mixed up,
Change comes slow or much too quick.
We like to build our boxes and walls,
We like to build them thick.
Our categories and labels,
Are weapons don't you know,
To change you only rearrange,
You never have to grow.

The tree of life needs watering,
It needs our daily care,
Remember the whole tree is only ours,
When we will share,
The earth was made for everyone,
God's children are we all,
Jesus said that our neighbors are
As precious as ourselves,
So Christians heed the call.

WORDS AND MUSSIC: Dore Ellzey C1973
BECAUSE WE ARE ONE PEOPLE.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE
L#$ Mathewson Street Providence, Rhode Island
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (401) 2720247

Fifth Sunday in Epiphany
February 5, 1978

SINGSPIRATION ANNOUNCEMENTS MEDITATION

CALL TO WORSHIP:
L: Come, let us return to the Lord
P: For we have been torn, that we may be healed
For we have been stricken, that we may be bound up
L: We would be revived and raised up, that we might live in God's sight.
P: Let us know the Lord, let us earnestly come to know the Lord.
Tog: Come, let us return to the Lord.

OPENING HYMN: We're Marching to Zion Ev, H. 74

Invocation

Reading from the Scripture: I Cor. 1:18031

SERMON: Fools for Christ

HYMN: In the Cross of Christ I Glory MH 416

Offering -- Offertory -- Doxology

Prayers of the People:
O God, we habe foundered in the darkness. We have fought with our demons, and sometimes we have lost. We drag behind us chains we have fashioned of fear linked upon fear. We are broken with self-punishment. Come to us now as we are -- frail and human and often miserable, and let the love of Jesus Christ open our hearts to your presence, until we know, as you have always told us, that your forgiveness is given seventy - times seven and even forevermore. Amen.
(Followed by the Lord's Prayer, Our Creator...)

Response: Hear Our Prayers, O Lord

Communion Hymn: When I Survey the Wonderous Cross 435

The Lord's Supper

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sung Thanksgiving: Now Our God is with us, let us make Thanksgiving
For the joy within us living
In this holy temple, at this holy table
Hope and life God will enable
Now we leave, and believe
That God will restore us, for the work before us.

Closing Hymn: Take the Name of Jesus With You. MH 87

Benediction

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOOD NEWS FROM DISTRICT CONFERENCE: Rev. Marge Ragona was elected a member of the UFMCC Task Force on Women. CHERYL MCCULLOUGH was elected alternate. Jean Grallay of Boston was named as Representative to the Office of Lay Concerns, and Lay Representative to the District Board of Home Missions. Other offices will be announced by our representative.

WEDNESDAY: February 8: NO POTLUCK. Ash Wednesday service will be held at the Parsonage. Ashes will be provided. Come and worship as we enter the season of Lent.

FRIDAY: February 10: Elder Nancy Wilson will be preaching for us at a special service at the Parsonage. We will have POTLUCK prior to the service. Come and bring something special for this special event. We need a folding table or some card tables to permit everyone to sit down to dinner that night.

LENTEN PROGRAMS:

Sundays in Lent will be spent learning how our brothers and sisters in many Christian denominations worship. Each Sunday we will follow the order of worship and style of worship (including appropriate dress) for a number of Protestant and Catholic groups. Come and see what worship is like for others, and worship using that pattern. We can then see -- when we begin our Liturgy Committee - what others have to offer us as part of their liturgical tradition.

Wednesday evenings in Lent, following Potluck, we will have a series of Theological Tabletalks. Each week we will discuss a different Christian doctrine from a comparative point of view. We will discuss our Christian beliefs about the Bible, God, the Holy Spirit, JJesus, Salvation, Prayer, and the life to come. This will be an interesting experiment in learning about each others' beliefs, and how our own understanding of them can be helped to grow.

OCTOBER DISTRICT CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN PROVIDENCE. All those who are interested in Conference Planning will be welcome to participate as we begin our work toward making the District feel at home here in Providence. Suggestions, ideas, and help are needed. You will be receiving a questionaire soon.

OUR NEWSLETTER - IN GOD'S PROVIDENCE will be gotten together over the next week or 10 days. If you have articles, items, cartoons or ideas, please see Rev. Ragona.

FOOLS FOR CHRIST

We have gone off to District Conference and returned. And like many of the times I have been to these conferences, I come back feeling both chastened and elated. I come back chastened, because our announcement that we felt that by May we would be ready for re-chartering was not greeted by great enthusiasm -- it was greeted with the question, "Will it last?" Our new-found stability, our ability to deal with our responsibilities, our increased numbers seemed impressive on the surface, but will they last? I am convinced that they will, and said so. You and I will have to show by our dedication and committment that they will over time. Secondly, I come back elated. Cheryl and I have been elected to the Women's Task Force. Jean has been elected as District Lay Representative to the Board of Home Missions. We had good workshops, and great fellowship with brothers and sisters from many walksof life and many churches in many cities. For some,of us, it was our first view of MCC in the larger sense -- for others it was a chance to renew old friendships and make new ones.

We also came home with a challenge. District Conference in October will be our responsibility. We are a little church without great resources. We have an inexperienced pastor. We have a simple group of people -- we don't have great theologians (as Boston often has), we don't have scholars (as Hartford has), we don't have fantastically gifted musicians (as A & O has), we don't have large congregations as N.Y. has. We have a tiny church, simple people -- many of them with simple educations -- we have only the simple talents given us by God. What can we do? We have committment. We have the desire

MATHEWSON STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Third Sunday in Lent
February 26, 1978

9 AM WJAR Radio (920) *Worship 10 AM*

ORGAN PRELUDE BACH
O Mensch, bewein' dein' Sünde gross
GREETINGS AND CONCERNS
CHORAL INTROIT
GREETING TO THE RADIO CONGREGATION
CALL TO WORSHIP
Good morning! What brings you to this place?
WE WERE TOLD THAT WE COULD MEET GOD HERE.
But, isn't that a painful experience?
ONLY IF WE LOVE OUR PRIDE MORE THAN GOD.
What do you expect to happen?
GOD WILL RENEW OUR LIVES WITH HIS PURPOSE AND ENERGY, IF WE ALLOW IT AND WANT IT.
Then the question is: Do you really want it to happen now?
YES! WE INTEND TO INVEST OURSELVES FULLY IN HELPING GOD MAKE IT HAPPEN, HERE AND NOW!
Then let us sing to his greatness!
AND WE WILL MEET HIM HERE TODAY!
*HYMN OF CELEBRATION NO. 492
We Lift our Hearts to Thee
LENTEN PRAYER OF REFLECTION
Lord God, creator, redeemer and sustainer: as we remember the temptation, suffering and death of Jesus Christ, help us to take up the cross and follow him.
LORD GOD, SAVE US FROM HURT PRIDE THAT LEADS TO ANGER SO THAT WE NURSE OUR GRUDGES AND RESENTMENTS AND REFUSE TO LOVE AND FORGIVE.
By the power of your Holy Spirit, help us to do as Jesus did - love our enemies, pray for our persecutors, and forgive others the wrongs they have done.
LORD GOD, SAVE US FROM THE SELF-CENTEREDNESS THAT MAKES US BLIND TO THE NEEDS OF OTHERS BECAUSE WE BEGRUDGE THE TIME AND MONEY AND EFFORT WE MIGHT HAVE TO SPEND IN HELPING THEM.
By the power of your Spirit help us to live as Jesus lived - always ready to listen, never too tired to help, always reaching out to meet others where they are, and not where we wish they would be!
LORD GOD, SAVE US FROM THE SELFISHNESS THAT TURNS US IN ON OURSELVES SO THAT WE PUT OURSELVES FIRST AND ARE INDIFFERENT TO THE HURTS AROUND US.
By the power of your Energy help us to do as Jesus did - love you, love ourselves, and so love other people - never taking the easy way out, but taking the hard and grand way of the cross.
AMEN.
SOLO *Crucifixion* BARBER
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
ANTHEM *The King's Highway* WILLIAMS
THE WORD FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
*HYMN OF PREPARATION NO. 420
O Love Divine, What Hast Thou Done!
THE WRITTEN WORD Romans 3:30 (NT p.145)
THE SPOKEN WORD MR. TRENCH
"ONE FOR ALL"
OFFERING
ORGAN OFFERTORY BACH
Herlich thut mich verlangen
DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION
LORD, GIVE US THE BOLDNESS TO FOLLOW YOU,
TO GO OUT INTO THE WORLD IN PEACE,
TO HAVE COURAGE WHEN IT IS HARD,
TO HOLD ON TO WHAT IS GOOD NO MATTER WHAT,
TO RETURN NO ONE EVIL FOR EVIL,
TO STRENGTHEN THE WEAK,
TO ACT FOR THE SUFFERING,
TO GIVE AND NOT COUNT THE COST,
TO ENJOY OUR FAMILIES,
TO HONOR ALL OF YOUR CREATION,
TO DO AND TELL THE GOOD NEWS OF YOUR GRACE,

(Continued)

REJOICING IN THE POWER OF YOUR SPIRIT!
LET IT HAPPEN THROUGH US! AMEN!

*HYMN OF DEDICATION NO. 250
Soldiers of Christ, Arise

BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

ORGAN POSTLUDE BACH
Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland

****

THE FLOWERS in the chancel this morning are given by Miss Ada Marriott in loving memory of her father.

THIS WEEK

ALSO TODAY:
- 10:00 Nursery Care
- 10:30 Church School classes
- 11:05 Coffee and Fellowship
- 11:15 Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 Pilgrimage in Prayer
- 7:30 New Focus

MONDAY:
- 5:30 Council on Ministries
  MAKE DINNER RESERVATIONS IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO.

Tuesday:
- Leisure and Learning

Thursday:
- 9-11 AM Church Staff Meeting
- Leisure and Learning

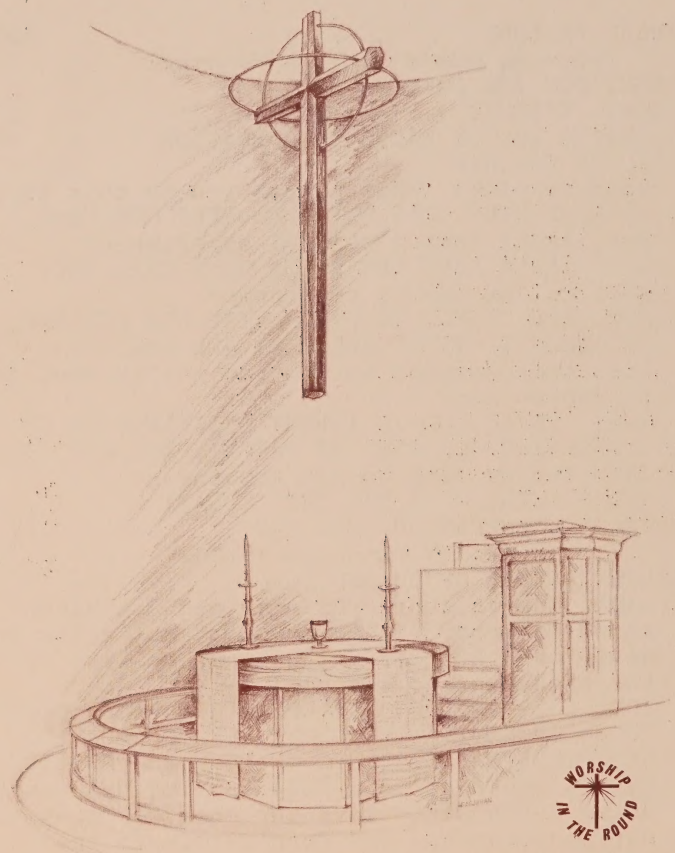
Friday:
- World Day of Prayer

GRACE CHURCH LENTEN NOONDAY PREACHERS:
- Monday, Tuesday: The Rev. Edward G. St. Godard
  St. Jean-Baptiste Church, Pawtucket
- Wednesday: The Rt. Rev. John S. Spong
  Bishop of the Diocese of Newark
- Thursday, Friday: The Rev. Warren Skipp
  Rector, Trinity Episcopal Church, Swarthmore, PA

****

TAKE A MINUTE AND JOT DOWN AT LEAST 5 OF YOUR FAVORITE HYMNS ON THE BACK OF YOUR ATTENDANCE REGISTRATION. IT WILL HELP US SELECT THE MUSIC YOU LIKE TO SING!

MATHEWSON STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PROVIDENCE, R. I.



• Ministers •

Wilbur C. Ziegler

William C. Trench

• Bishop •

Edward G. Carroll

• Superintendent •

J. Gary Campbell

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE
134 Mathewson Street Providence, Rhode Island
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (401)272-9247

Third Sunday in Lent
Februa ry 26, 1978

GREETING ANNOUNCEMENTS MEDITATION
Processional Hymn: "For the Beauty of the Earth" ~~Folk Hymn~~ #44
METH. 35

INVITATION TO CONFESSION-PRAYER OF ASSURANCE
L: We are becoming more aware of the dryness of our world, of its lack of "soul." The world is searching for the water of life.
Sisters and brothers of our pilgrim Church, before we ask God to quench our thirst, let us call to mind the number of times we have refused to drink of God's mercy when it was offered to us.

P: I confess to Almighty God, and to you my sisters and brothers that I have sinned through my own fault in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do; I ask God, and you my sisters and brothers for forgiveness. In the name of the Lord our God. Amen.

L: May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

P: Amen.

L: Lord have mercy.
P: Lord have mercy.
L: Christ have mercy.
P: Christ have mercy.
L: Lord have mercy.
P: Lord have mercy.

L: Let us pray for a few moments in our hearts, humbly recognizing the many ways we have chosen to remain thirsty, and asking God for a renewed willingness to come to the flowing water of life.

HYMN: Fill my Cup, Lord Folk Celeb. # 9

PROCLAIMING THE WORD:
Old Testament Reading: Exodus 17:3-7
L: This is the word of the Lord.
P: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9
L: O Come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us give a joyous shout to honor the Rock of our salvation.
P: Come before our God with thanksful hearts. Let us sing to God with hymns of praise.
L: Come kneel before the Lord our Maker.
P: For the Lord is our God. We are like sheep and God is our shepherd.
L: Do not harden your hearts, but come to God who is calling today.
P: We will not be like our parents who had seen miracles and yet doubted. We will not try the patience of the Lord.

The Epistle: Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8
L: This is the word of the Lord.
P: Thanks be to God.

All: Lord, you are truly the Savior of the world; give us living water, that we may never thirst again.

The Gospel: John 4:42, 15. (Please stand.)
L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
P: Praise be to God.

Sermon: Fr. Gordon Chaisson

HYMN: "Be Thou My Vision" Folk Celeb. #50

Litany of the Faithful
L: Christ has promised that those who drink the water he offeres will never thirst again. We ask now for help to know how much we need this living water, as we respond:
Tog: LORD QUENCH OUR THIRST.
L: That our celebration of praise, worship and thanksgiving may always be a time for tasting once again the central values of our faith, we pray to the Lord,
TOG: LORD, QUENCH OUR THIRST.
L: That the sacraments may be approached with the humility that enables Christ to heal our soulls, we pray to the Lord:
Tog: LORD, QUENCH OUR THIRST.
L: That God's word may be a genuine source of consolation and inspiration on our journey, we pray to the Lord:
Tog: LORD, QUENCH OUR THIRST.
L: That the living waters that touched us in baptism may continue to touch others through our acts of patience, cheerfulness, and optimism, we pray to the Lord:
Tog: LORD, QUENCH OUR THIRST.
L: That we may love the word of God in Scripture and in homily, when it disturbs our complacency and reveals our hidden wounds, we pray to the Lord:
Tog: LORD, QUENCH OUR THIRST.
L: God, our Creator, having gathered us together that we might worship you in Spirit and in truth, deepen our faith in the value of worship that brings your saving waters to us. Teach us, guide us, and nourish us for the journey you have promised to walk with us. This we ask of you, Almighty God, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS
Offertory
Doxology: Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above you heqvenly host.
Praise God and Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN: "Child of God" Folk Humn: #16

THE EUCHARIST

L: Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.
P: Blessed be God forever.
L: By the mystery of the water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity.
P: Blessed be God forever.
L: Blessed are you, Lord, God ofall creation. Through your goodnesswe have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and the work of

human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.
Tog: Blessed be God forever.

L: Lord God, we ask you to receive us and be pleased with the sacrifice we offer you with humble and contrite hearts.
Lord, wash away my iniquity; cleanse me from my sin.
Pray, my sisters and brothers, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the Almighty Creator.
Tog: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at our hands for the praise and glory of God's name, and for the good of all the church.

L: The Lord be with you.
P: And also with you.
L: Lift up your hearts.
P: We lift them up to the Lord.
L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.
L: Creator in heaven: It is right that we should give you thanks and glory: You alone are God, living and true. Through all eternity you live in unapproachable light. Source of life and goodness, You have created all things, to fill your creatures with every blessing and lead us all to the joyful vision of your light. Countless heavenly hosts stand before you to do your will; they look upon your splendor and praise you night and day. United with them, and in the name of every creature under heaven, we too praise you as we say:
P: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest, Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.
L: Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:
P: When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we do proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.

L: Let us pray with confidence to the Creator, in the words our Savior gave us:
Tog: Our Creator... But deliver us from evil (stop here)
L: Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day. In your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from all anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of Christ Jesus, Our Savior.
P: For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forevermore, Amen.

L: Lord Jesus, you said to your apostles: I leave you peace, my peace I give unto you. Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your people, and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom where you live forever, and ever.
P: Amen.
L: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
P: And also with you.
L: Let us offer each other the kiss of peace.

L: May this mingling of the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ bring eternal life to those who receive it.
P: Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

L: Lord Jesus Christ, offspring of the living God, by thw ill of God the Crator and the work of the Holy Spirit you bring life into the world. By your holy body and blood free me from my sins and from

every evil. Keep me faithful to your teaching, and never let me be parted from you.

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who come to this supper.
P: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.

L: Come to the table.

(Following communion)
Prayer of Thanksgiving

L: Whoever drinks the water Christ gives will never thirst again. Let us pray that we will see the coming week as a God-given opportunity to share the water of Christ with those who thirst, but who have never come to draw from that well. Amen.

L: The Lord be with you.
P: And also with you.
L: May Almighty God bless you, the Creator, and the Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

L: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
P: Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn: "They'll Know We are Christians by Our Love."

* * * * * * * * * * * *

Today's liturgy is a modern Catholic rite and is offered in the same spirit as our previous Lenten services, that we may better understand the many traditions which we bring to MCC.

The Roman Catholic Church (to set it apart from the Byzantine or Eastern Catholic Church) dates its founding to Christ's words to the Apostle Peter: "That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I shall give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." (Matt:16:18-19). A history of the Catholic Church would be a history of Christianity ypto the time of the Reformation., when the two major forms of Christianity diverged. Catholic worship tends to be either very formal, or very innovative (folk masses, etc.). The Charismatic renewal is a modern development in Catholicism, which has led to a more open and informal style of worship. We are indebted to Deacon Russell Coates for tonight's liturgy.

Our guest tonight is Fr. Gordon Chaisson, whom we had the pleasure of meeting in Hartford following District Conference. Fr. Gordon is from Willimantic, Connecticut and was involved in a campus ministry in Connecti cut.

Next week we look forward to an Episcopal service -- if our plans work out, and to the visit of Exhorter Betty Spear of MCC-Boston. You won't want to miss it.

Potluck Wednesday at t he Parsonage.

Deacon's meeting Thursday, at the Parsonage.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE
134 Mathewson Street Providence, Rhode Island
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor 401-272-9247

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 5, 1978

Call to Worship:
L: Yea, God, we are glad in thee, and sing thee, and declare thee, who art joy to the mourners, new music to them that are bowed down, and hope to those who a re lost.
P: Thou art as daylight to our murk and dark, Thou art as burning against our cold. Thou art as the blue sky above our winter, and the stirring of growth in the dead ground.
L: O that our tongues had the burning to speak, our eyes the daylight and our hands the sky, our hearts the stirring that we might praise thee!
P: Thy gifts are always given. They are given us now,; Thy glory is breaking around us always. Amen.

Opening Hymn of Praise: All Creatures of Our God and King M.#60

Invocation
L: O Lord, open Thou our lips.
P: and our mouths shall show forth thy praise.
L: Praise ye the Lord.
P: The Lord's Name be praised.
L: Let us pray.

The Gloria: Glory be to the Lord, God
And to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be
World without end. Amen. Amen.

Reading from the Scripture: I Thessalonians (paraphrased)

Sermon: Jellybeans and the Living Word Exhorter Bette Spear

Sermon Hymn: Christ Lives (See sheet)

Call to Prayer: L: The Lord be with you.
P: And with thy spirit.
L: Let us pray.
(The prayers of the people, followed by the Prayer of Confession and the Lord's Prayer, "Our Creator...")

Vast and Loving God: Because we are human and not gods, we bring to the world our frailty as well as our wisdom. Our touch upon the earth brings a blemish. Our faith has its doubt; our hope has its fear; our strength has its weakness. Her we confess ourselves to be ourselves and little more, except that thy power sustains us and thy love renews us. O Thou who comes to all ov us in Jesus Christ our Lord, forgive us for what we are and make us thine. In Jesus name. Amen.

Response: Hear Our prayer, O Lord.

Worship with our Tithes and Offerings
Offertory

Dedication
Doxology: Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts
Praise God and Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.
The Lord's Supper
Communion Hymn: 1. Break Thou the Bread of Life M. 369
2. Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross M. 433

Hymn: Leaning on the Everlasting Arms Evang.35

Benediction

The Gift of Peace

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Our service today is in the style of the Disciples of Christ or the Christian Church. Disciples were a breakoff from the Methodist Church in 1784, and from the Baptists in 1801, and the Presbyterians in 1804. They formed the Springfield Presbytery and resolved to be known only as Christians. Thomas Campbell, a Scottish evangelist was dismayed that nowhere in America were all Christians permitted to participate in the communion service whatever their denominational affiliation. In 1809 he organized the Disciples of Christ with his son, Alexander. While the initial objective of uniting all Christians failed, the Disciples went on to become one of the largest Protestant denominations. Their practice is very close to the Baptist practice, their polity that of the United Church of Christ or the Congregational Churches.

Many of the elements we ordinarily find in the Metropolitan Community Churches are found in a typical Disciples service, and except for the style of the communion, most MCC people would feel comfortable at a Disciples of Christ service.

We welcome our guest, Bette Spear, who is a relatively new Exhorter in the Boston church. Bette came into MCC through the church in Eugene, Oregon, where Ann Montague is the pastor. Bette's family live in Dedham, and we are glad to have her join as our speaker today.

Tuesday, March 7th: Pastor Marge Ragona, Jean Cralley, Michael Nordstrom and Jody Stiles head south for Eastern Ministers' Conference. We ask your prayers in our absence from this church, and we will be praying for all of you while we are gone. Russell Coates, as ranking deacon will be in charge of matters until we return. Rusty will be at Potluck Wednesday to consecrate the Agape.

Wednesday, March 8: Potluck at the Parsonage.

Next Sunday: We are expecting a special service with a group of Black Baptists, with Ernest and his pastor leading in worship. We will be thinking about you and wishing we could be here for this service.

Tuesday, March 14th Pastor returns.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

TUESDAY--MARCH 14-6:30 PM Prison Ministry Workshop
8:00 PM Discussion Group--Criminal Justice and the Death Penalty

THURSDAY-MARCH 16-7:00 PM Bible Study
8:00 PM Mid-Week Service

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We extend a hearty welcome to all of you who visit with us today and hope you will be spiritually blessed as you worship. Please join us in the coffee hour downstairs in the undercroft immediately following this worship hour. We would like the opportunity to meet and greet you personally.

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RESPONSIVE READING PSALMS 57:7-11

LEADER: I have complete confidence, O God; I will sing and praise you!

PEOPLE: Wake up, my soul! Wake up, my harp and lyre! I will wake up the sun.

LEADER: I will thank you, O Lord, among the nations. I will praise you among the peoples.

PEOPLE: Your constant love reaches the heavens; your faithfulness touches the skies.

TOGETHER: Show your greatness in the sky, O God, and your glory over all the earth.

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LOOKING AHEAD

March 19--Palm Sunday
March 26--Easter
April 29--Prison Ministry Workshop
April 30--Prison Emphisis Sunday

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You are extended A SPECIAL INVITATION to join us in our next Operation Charter Church meeting Friday March 17th at 7:30 PM with Bruce and Jim 58 West 84th Street in Manhattan. This is another important meeting regarding requirements we need to fulfill in order that we may become a chartered church in the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

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There is not in the world a kind of life more sweet and delightful than that of a continual conversation with God. --Brother Lawrence

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ALPHA AND OMEGA METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
50MONROE PLACE BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11201 (212) 834-9186

MARCH 12, 1978

SINGSPIRATION: Jerry Cunningham

CALL TO WORSHIP: Responsive Reading-Psalms 57:7-11

SONG: 22 Praise Him! Praise Him!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPERATION CHARTER CHURCH: Proposed 1978 Budget Jim Fox

SCRIPTURE LESSON: St John 9:1-12

SONG: 43 Blessed Assurance

SERMON: Let's Talk About Jesus Exhorter Bill Smith

COMMUNITY PRAYER: Please feel free to make your requests and pray as you feel the Spirit directs you. We request that you be brief in order that more people will be able to participate.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS
OFFERTORY HYMN: Solo Emmett Watkins

COMMUNION: Metropolitan Community Church celebrates an open communion. You are invited to feast at God's table and challenged to go forth to share the good news of Jesus Christ with the world.

SONG: 29 He's the Savior of my Soul

BENEDICTION

SONG: Blest Be the Tie That Binds
(Please Join Hands)

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"I am the Alpha and the Omega said the Lord God Almighty, Who is, Who was, and Who is to come."
Rev. 1:8

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Please pray for our pastor, Rev. Dee Jackson, as she returns to us from the Eastern Minister's Conf. UFMCC.

PALM SUNDAY
March 19,1978
WJAR Radio (920) 9 AM 10 AM Worship

"The content of the faith in Providence is this: when death rains from heaven as it does now, when cruelty wields power over nations and individuals as it does now, when hunger and persecution drive millions from place to place as they do now, and when prisons and slums all over the world distort the humanity of the bodies and souls of men and women as they do now - we can boast in that time, and just in that time, that even all of this cannot separate us from the love of God."

Paul Tillich

ORGAN PRELUDE *Pièce Heroique* FRANCK
GREETINGS AND CONCERNS
CHORAL INTROIT
GREETING TO THE RADIO CONGREGATION
CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God of starry heavens, Lord of busy streets:
C: WE CELEBRATE YOUR PRESENCE IN EVERY PLACE.
L: God of every you and me, astir in avenue and alley, in beaches and bluffs, in forests and lakes:
C: WE GATHER TO PRAISE YOU AND REJOICE IN YOUR WORLD.
L: God of all the comic pages, sports, financial, black, white and yellow pages:
C: WE SING OF THE RICH, LOVABLE FULLNESS OF YOUR HUMAN FAMILY.
L: God of savings banks, service stations, shopping centers, health clinics, lost and found departments:
C: OUR HEARTS CARTWHEEL AT SO MANY DELIGHTFUL REMINDERS OF YOUR SPIRIT AT WORK.
L: God of backyard, green grass, shcool yard, playground, court room, concert hall, tenement, high rise:
C: OUR SOULS TAKE OFF THEIR SHOES, FOR EVERY PLACE IS SACRED SPACE IN THIS HOLY WORLD OF YOURS.
L: God of starry heavens, Lord of busy streets:
C: WE CELEBRATE YOUR PRESENCE IN EVERY TIME AND PLACE, AND NOW, TODAY, IN THIS TIME AND PLACE.

*HYMN OF CELEBRATION NO. 423
Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR PALM SUNDAY AND HOLY WEEK

L: Great God, we praise you now for the people who accept us with all of our frailties.
C: WE PRAISE YOU FOR THE PEOPLE WHO DO NOT HAVE TO WIN ALL OF THE TIME.
L: We praise you for the critics who speak eye-to-eye and person-to-person.
C: WE PRAISE YOU FOR THE SINNERS WHO DO NOT THANK GOD THAT THEY ARE NOT AS OTHER PEOPLE.
L We praise you for Jesus Christ who lost most of the battles, and for the Holy Spirit whose speech is so often incoherent to us.
C: WE PRAISE YOU FOR YOURSELF, THAT YOU ARE THERE FOR US, WHEN THE FEARFUL ONES RUN AWAY!

SOLO *Make Thee Clean, My Heart, From Sin* BACH
DAVID HOUSE, BARITONE
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
ANTHEM *Alleluia* RANDALL THOMPSON
THE WORD FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
*HYMN OF PREPARATION NO. 416
In the Cross of Christ I Glory
THE WRITTEN WORD Romans 8:31-39 (NT p. 149)
THE SPOKEN WORD MR. TRENCH
"PROVIDENCE: HOPING FOR THINGS UNSEEN"
OFFERING
ORGAN OFFERTORY *Priere* FRANCK
DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

L: Strengthen, O Lord, the hands which have been stretched out to receive Your gifts; use them to do your work in the world.
C: GRANT THAT THE EYES WHICH HAVE SEEN YOUR LOVE IN THIS PLACE MAY ALSO SEE IT IN THE DEEP NEEDS AND GIFTS OF ALL OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS:
L: that the ears which have heard Your Word may be opened to the cry of Your children for bread and justice.

(Continued)

C: THAT THE TONGUES WHICH HAVE SPOKEN YOUR PRAISE MAY ALSO SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE:

ALL: THAT WE WHO HAVE FED ON YOU IN OUR HEARTS BY FAITH MAY THIS WEEK LIVE WITH A BIT MORE GRATITUDE, DARING, JOY AND VISION, IN THE STRENGTH OF JESUS CHRIST, OUR SAVIOR AND COMPANION. AMEN.

*HYMN OF DEDICATION NO. 425
Ride On, Ride On in Majesty

BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

ORGAN POSTLUDE *Schmüke dich, o liebe Seele* BACH

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THIS WEEK

ALSO TODAY:
- 10:00 - Nursery Care
- 10:30 - Church School Classes
- 11:05 - Coffee and Fellowship
- 7:00 - Pilgrimage in Prayer
- 7:30 - New Focus

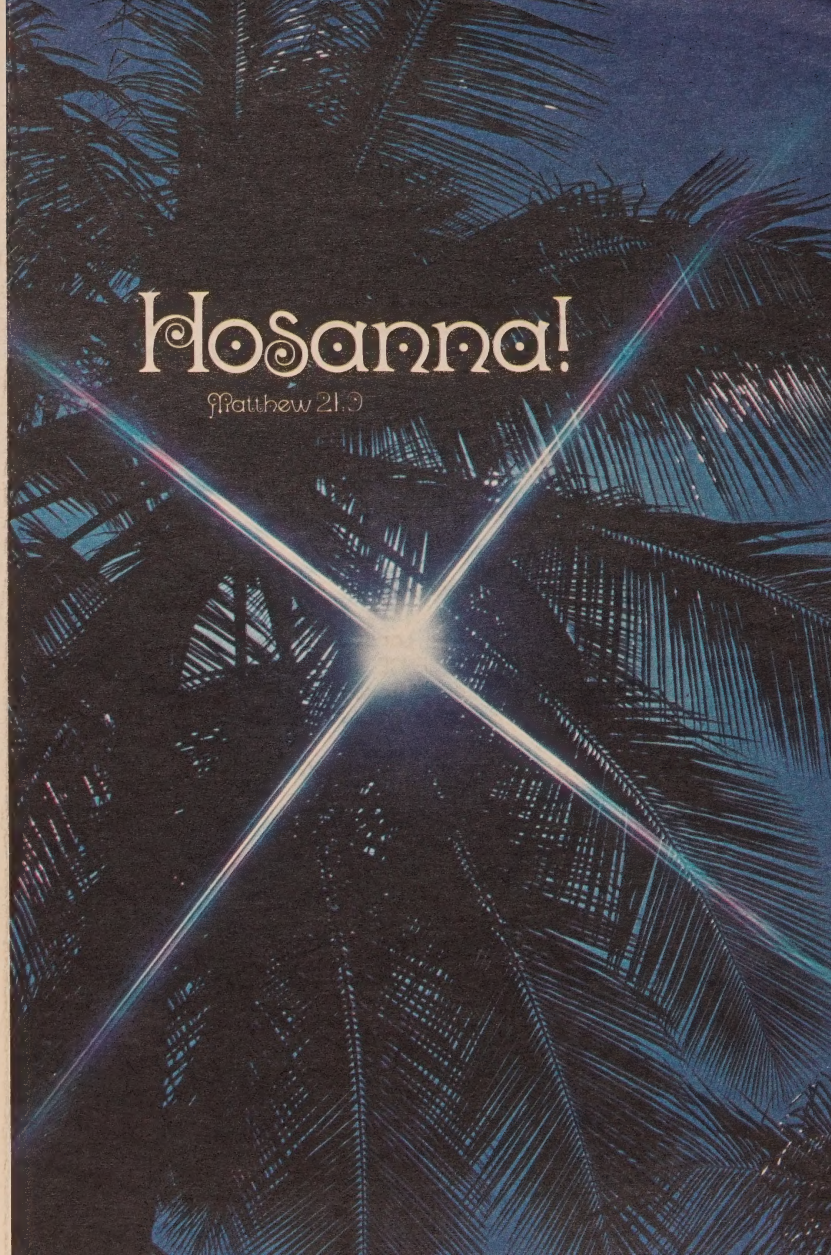
MONDAY:
- 5:30 - Council on Ministries

THURSDAY:
- 9:00 - 11:00 AM Staff Meeting
- 7:30 - Service of Meditation and Holy Communion in the chapel

FRIDAY:
- 12:00 - 3:00 PM - Traditional Good Friday service at Grace Church

EASTER MEMORIALS

YOU MAY ORDER EASTER MEMORIALS TODAY FOLLOWING WORSHIP IN THE CHURCH OFFICE. Deadline for ordering memorial plants or making a gift to the Food Bank is Wednesday noon.



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE
Chapel, 5 Junction Street Providence, R.I.
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (401)272-9247

GOOD FRIDAY
March 24, 1978

Opening Hymn: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross #156

Psalm 22
L: My God, My God why hast thou forsaken me?
P: Why art thou so far from helping me?
L: O my God, I cry by day, but thou dost not answer;
P: And by night, but find no rest.
L: Yet thou art holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.
P: In thee our fathers trusted; they trusted, and thou didst deliver them.
L: To thee they cried and were saved.
P: In thee they trusted and were not disappointed.
L: All who see me mock at me, they make mouths at me, they wag their heads.
P: "He committed his cause unto the Lord; Let God deliver him.
L: Let God rescue him, for the Lord delights in him."
P: They divide my garments among them, and for my raiment they cast lots.
L: But thou, O Lord, be not far off. O thou my help, hasten to my aid
P: I will tell of thy name to my brethren; in the midst of the congregation I will praise thee.
L: You who fear the Lord, parise God. Sons and daughters of Jacob and Rachel, glorify God.
P: God has not despised or abhorred the affiction of the afflicted.
L: God has not been hidden from him but has heard when he cried to the Lord.
P: From thee comes our praise, our vows will we pay before thee.
L: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;
P: For dominion belongs to the Lord, and God rules over the nations.

Hymn: My faith looks up to Thee. Vs. 1,2,4 #218

Prayer of Confession: Holy God: Your mercy is more than our minds can measure; your love outlasts our sin. Forgive our guilt and fear and angers. We pass by those in distess and are cruel to the needy. We are quick to blame others, slow in making up, and our resentments fester. Have mercy on us, God, have mercy on us who blindly live our lives, for we do not know what we are doing. Destroy sin and sick pride, and renew us by the love of Christ who was cricified, and died for us. Amen.

Isaiah 53: 1-12 Responsive Reading #627

Pastoral Prayer

I Peter 2:21, 24-25 and the Lord's Prayer
L: For hereunto were you called: Because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that we should follow in Jesus' steps.
P: Who bore our sins by death upon a tree, that we, being dead to sin should live unto righteousness.
L: By whose stripes you are healed.
P: For we were as sheep going astray.
Tog: But are now returned unto the shepherd of our souls.

Hymn: Old Rugged Cross #257

THE SEVEN LAST WORDS

FIRST WORD: "Creator, forgive them, they know not what they do."
Luke 23:33-34

Silent Meditation

SECOND WORD: "This Day Shalt Thou Be With Me in Paradise."
Luke 23: 35-43

Silent Meditation

THIRD WORD: "Woman Behold thy Son; Son Behold Thy Mother."
John 20: 25-27

Silent Meditation

FOURTH WORD: "I Thirst."
John 20: 28-29

Silent Meditation

FIFTH WORD: "My God, My God, Why Hast Thou Forsaken Me."
Matthew 27: 45-47

Silent Meditation

SIXTH WORD: "It is Finished."
John 20:30

Silent Meditation

SEVENTH WORD: "Into Thy Hands I Commend My Spirit."
Luke 23: 44-47

Silent Meditation

Hymn: Beneath the Cross of Jesus #154

Offering
Offertory:

Good Friday Meditation Rev. Ragona

Hymn: #157

Prayer of Thanksgiving:
Great God, we thank you for Jesus, who was punished for our sins, and suffered shameful death to rescue us. We praise you for the trust we have in Jesus, for mercy undeserved, for love you pour out for us and for all humanity. Give us gratitude, O God, and a great desire to serve you by taking our cross and following in the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn: Amazing Grace #

Benediction: Now unto the one who is able to keep you from falling and to present you without blemish before the presence of God's glory with thanksgiving, to the only God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
134 Mathewson Street Providence, R.I.
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (401)272-9247

Palm Sunday
March 19, 1978

Call to Worship: Rejoice greatly, O child of Zion; shout, O child of Jerusalem: Behold your Savior cometh unto thee; just and having salvation; lowly and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt, the foal of an ass.

Hymn: All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name M. #71

Invocation: O God, come to us this day in the parable of the meek king. Give us the patience for burden shown by the small beast. Quicken us to the hidden laughter. Surprise us by joy. Let us come to you as children; let us dance in trust and join in somersaults of hope. Let us, O Lord, hear the meek king. Amen.

Litany for Palm Sunday:
L: Behold the Lord cometh. In Christ's day shall the righteous flourish and abundance of peace as long as the moon endureth. Christ shall have dominion from sea to sea, and from the river to the ends of the earth.
P: Blessed is the one that cometh in the name of the Lord.
L: God has highly exalted Christ, who has been given a name which is above every other name; that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord, to the glory of God our Creator
P: Enter into these gates with thanksgiving and into these courts with praise.

The Gloria:

Glory be to the Lord God
And to the Christ
And to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the geginning, is now
And ever shall be
World without end. Amen. Amen.

HYMN: Lord of the Dance

Reading from the Scripture: Luke 19:28-40

Sermon: "The Meek King" Rev. Marge Ragona

Hymn: Jesus Shall Reign M.472

Community Prayers, followed by the Lord's Prayer (Our Creator...)
Response: Hear Our Prayer, O Lord.

Worship with our Tithes and Offerings
Offertory
Doxology: Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly host
PraiseGod and Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Communion Hymn: There is a Green Hill

Celebration of the Eucharist
Prayer of Confession: O God, whose only begotten was greeted by the crowd on Olivet with Hallelujahs, but who in that same week was mocked as He went lonely to the Cross: Forbid that our praise should be in words alone. Let Christ find in us not another crucifixion, but love and loyalty. Open our hearts to Thy love that we may receive thee as our ruler and never forsake thee. Pardon us who often close the gates of our lives

against the entrance of Christ's spirit; forgive our love of self which does not allow Christ to lead us to a larger life. Save us from the hypocrisy that sings Hosanna in the church and Crucify in our private lives. Deliver us from the treason that boasts loyalty in the upper room but makes cowardly denial in the judgment halls. When the palms have withered, the songs are quiet, and the streets empty, may we find ourselves still with Thee. Amen.

Assur-ance of Pardon
Prayer of Access and Consecration
Breaking of Bread/Blessing of Wine

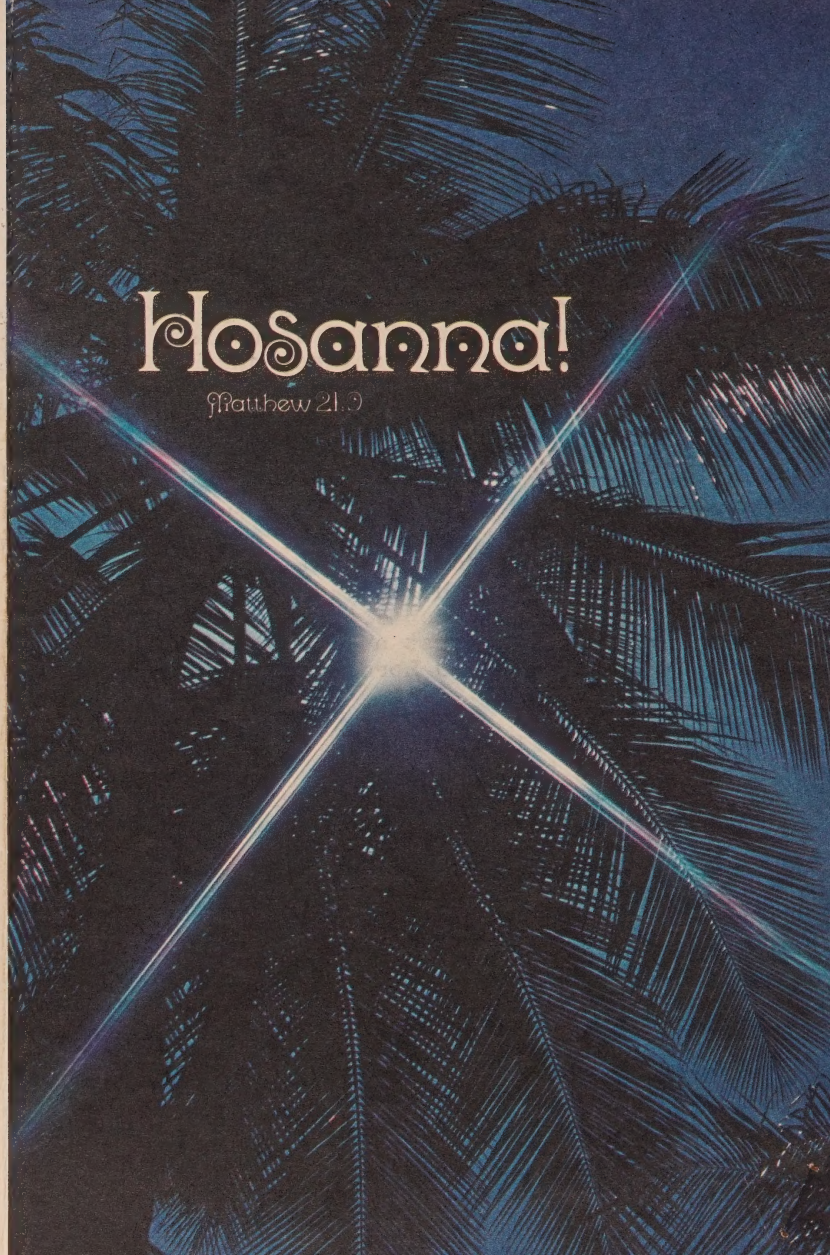
Song of Thanksgiving:
Now our God is with us, let us make Thanksgiving
For the joy within us living
In this holy temple, at this holy table
Hope and life God will enable.
Now we leave and believe that God will restore us
For the work before us.

Closing Hymn: We're Marching to Zion
Benediction

* * * * * * * *

Welcome to Metropolitan Community Church of Providence. We are one of 103 M.C.C.'s throughout the world. We invite questions about joining us or about our beliefs. Please join us downstairs for coffee following the service.

MINISTERIAL STAFF:
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor
Russell Coates, Deacon
Concetta Di Cenzo, Exhorter-Candidate
(Prison Ministry)
Deacon-Candidates:Barbara Kendall,Harry Payne



The Palm Sunday procession says as much or as little as we are ready to hear or to see. Perhaps it is a glad cry that somehow God is quietly going by on our steeet -- an event that is, inddeed, cause for hosannas. God on a donkey reminds us, of the words of P Paul that ~~say~~, "The foolishness of God is wiser than that of man;" and we look for a message in this foolishness.

Why does God in Jesus Christ march on a city, the holy city of Jerusalem, in a parade more like that of children than that of a conqueror? We think of St. Francis preaching to the birds, of the babe in the manger, of Alyosha, Galahad, Don Quixote, all the innocent ones who bring shining light to a dark and heavy world.

Something is happening that the hearts of humanity long for. Freedom to be light-hearted, freedom to be innocent and to trust. The vast longing in all humanity for peace and the right to peacefully assemble and love.

Hear then, the parable of the meek king as it speaks to our community.

Rev. Marge Ragona
5 Junction Street • Providence RI

THE MEEK KING

While the topic of this sermon is the meek King, I want to look at some of the opposites of meekness -- power and authority.

Like many women I have difficulty dealing with our modern concept of power. Power implies two kinds -- power to and power over. Too often in our modern world we are concerned with power over. And as a modern woman I am concerned with those who have power over me.

The other kind of power is more understandable to me -- power to. Enabling power is the power granted us by the Holy Spirit -- the power to do when we are in God's Holy Will.

women in our society under stand meekness

Meekness is not what we have consistently ~~thought~~ been taught it to be -- to be meek is not to be merely humble and permitting oneself to be walked on -- to be the world's foot wiper -- rather, meekness when the Bible was translated meant obedience.

So we have the parable of the meek king.

During the week prior to Palm Sunday, Jesus had performed the ultimate miracle. You will remember that Mary and Martha and Lazarus formed a family unit which often sheltered Jesus during his earthly ministry. They were wealthy landowners in Bethany and when Lazarus died, many many people would have known it. Mary and Martha were angry with Jesus for not having come quickly enough to save Lazarus -- and Jesus, having lost a dear friend immediately acted to rescue him. He raised Lazarus from the dead.

Rev. Marge Ragona
5 Junction Street • Providence RI

Jesus demonstrated both Power To and Power Over. He had the power to restore life and power over death.

The Pharisees were frightened of such a person. They had power over -- power over the poor, power over the government, power over the city -- but they did not have the power to.

The Roman government was frightened as well. They had power over the citizenry, they had power over the Jews in government, they had power over the Jewish nation -- but they did not have the power to -- power to awaken allegiance, power to make Romans out of this dissident people, power to awaken loyalty. They merely had power over.

Here was the meek king -- here was this simple Gallilean -- Who was he? What kind of power did he have? And yet he could raise the dead. He had power to. He had authority over death itself.

It is no wonder that the Pharisees and the High Priest were threatened. It is no wonder the Roman government feared insurrection. This was a kind of power they could not have, did not have and could not even imagine having.

But it was in the hands of a meek person. A humble rabbi - a POOR TEACHER SURROUNDED BY Children, fisherfolk, & the world's outcasts. But look at the real symbols in this story.

Jesus answers prophecy in this parable. He comes riding upon an ass -- a donkey -- and the colt of an ass. Hear this -- in its day that was the sign of divinity. If you go back into ancient archeology Gods are often portrayed as standing with

Rev. Marge Ragona
5 Junction Street • Providence RI

one foot each on ~~xxxxxx~~ two donkeys or asses. Often these were winged, but they were not always. The scriptural prophecy was that he would come in the sign that Gods always came -- riding upon two asses. This was another of the ways Jesus declared his Godhead. I am a God -- No, I am the God -- is what the symbol says.

"I have shown you that I have power over death, I have power to restore life -- I am your God."

The meek king, riding upon the back of an ass, with the populace riding upon a crest of popularity for the miracle worker would just as quickly turn against him. He was God, but he was destined to die -- God dying to reconcile humanity to God.

This week the government will declare to us that they have power over. Power over our freedoms, power over our lives, power over our very persons.

But the Christ in us tells us that we have power too. The power to not let that stop us, the power to speak out, the power to keep on changing lives and building strength in our people. And eventually -- even if not this week -- that power to change lives will change government, even as Jesus changed the eventual course of world history.

We are the meek -- led by a meek king -- but let us never imagine that meekness to be merely ~~softness and~~ subservience -- Except in response to our God. We are the symbol of the meek king. We are the gentle

LIVING

Rev. Marge Ragona
5 Junction Street • Providence RI

and longsuffering lost as our ~~symbol~~ redeemer was, but we are also obedient. And as Jesus word to Lazarus was "Come Out" so his word to us is "Come Out". Come out from the grave of your closet and your fear, into the daylight of freedom and redemption.

Jesus is calling all of us to Come Out and show our response to the oppression around us -- not in anger and frustration, but in obedience -- in true meekness and in love. We follow our meek King -- and while we may obediently have to follow him in suffering, we realize that eventually we also follow him in the glorious resurrection. We too shall live again as Lazarus lived, as Jesus lived.

Loving God: Give us the strength to be meek, to be obedient even when our own strength fails -- we know that we have your example before us. As you were obedient unto the cross, let us bear our crosses and follow you -- not merely in the parades and triumphal marches, but in the judgment halls, in the dark night watches, in the time of trial. Strengthen us, guide us, guard us -- but ever keep us ~~us~~ in mind that when we are obedient to you we have power -- and that power is awesome. As the power to made the awe~~some~~ full power over of Rome quake, as your power to frightened even the Pharisees of your day, help us to have power to overcome ~~over~~ the Pharisees of our day. As the meek king was the parable in Christ's day, our community is today the parable of the meek overcoming the strong. Give us your power -- enable us and bring us ever to your kingdom -- In Jesus' name. Amen.

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Assurance

O God, what shall be the measure of our sins but your immeasurable mercy.
As we have come penitently to you, we remember your words that "whosever shall confess that Jesus is Lord shall be saved."
We claim that promise, knowing that we are already pardoned in Jesus' name and through Jesus' shed blood. Amen.

Thanksgiving

Lord who art Light beyond all light and Mercy beneath all mercies, Joy within all joys -- We have come to your talbe desiring the bread of heaven for our faint and fearful souls, and seeking the dark wine of salvation to put heart into our purpose and strength into our climb. You have nourished our spirits ~~xxx~~ fed our souls. and strengthend our hope. Send us forth from thy feast to forgive as we have been forgiven; through Jesus Christ, who is forgiveness personified.

Benediction

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up on wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary;they shall walk and not faint. Amen.

Rev. Marge Ragona
5 Junction Street • Providence RI

Offering
Offertory
Doxology

Communion Hymn: Let us Break Bread Together #330

The Lord's Supper
Prayer of Confession: O God, we admit that too often we live on the surface of life. We are afraid of the depths, though we try to hide many things deep within us. We are haunted by the knowledge that we have hurt others by our own selfish acts. We are harassed by the realization that our sense of priorities and laziness have prevented us from responding to situations where we might have made a creative difference. We know, O God, that we miss the mark of our Christian love time after time. Help us to see better in the future and do more nearly what is your will. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Breaking of Bread/Blessing of Wine

Thanksgiving: Now our God is with us
Let us make Thanksgiving
For the joys within us living.
In this holy temple, at this holy table
Hope and life God will enagle.
Now we leave and believe
That God will restore us
For the work before us.

Closing Hymn: Our God is Like an Eagle

Benediction:

* * * * * * * *

Please join us downstairs for coffee following the service. We welcome you to Metropolitan Community Church, and hope that you will feel at home and comfortable with us. We are one of 103 MCC's throughout the world, who base our faith on the historic creeds of Christianity, and who minister in and to the gay community.

OUR GOD IS LIKE AN EAGLE

When Israel camped in Sinai, Then Moses heart the Lord,
This message tell the people, and give them this my word,
From Egypt I was with you, and carried on my wing,
The whole of your great nation, from slav'ry I did bring.

Just as a mother eagle, who helps her young to fly,
I am a Mother to you, your needs I will supply,
And you are as my children, my own who hear my voice,
I am a Mother to you, the people of my choice.

If God is like an Eagle, who helps her young to fly,
And God is also Father, then what of you and I?
We have no fear of labels, we have no fear of roles,
If God's own being blends them, we seek the self-same goals.

Our God is not a woman, our God is not a man,
Our God is both an neither, our God is I Who Am.
From all the roles that bind us, our God has set us free.
What freedom does God give us? The freedom just to be!

* * * * * * * * * *

Church Staff: Pastor: Rev. Marge Ragona
Deacon: Russell Coates
Exhorter Candidate (Prison Min.) Concetta diCenzo
Deacon Candidates: Barbara Kendall
Harry Payne, Jr.
Musician: Dean Whitten
Music Director: Arlene Roy

Announcements

There will be a BOARD MEETING Monday, April 10, at the Parsonage, 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited. Board members are requested. Church staff is also requested to attend.

Wednesday: A group will be attending a class at R.I. Jr. College, Blackstone. If you would like to go, please ask Marge. Also Potluck at the Parsonage.

Thursday, Friday, Saturday: Women's Week at Brown. Special programs of interest to women. We will have further information available at Potluck Wednesday.

Sunday: April 16th: Spaghetti Dinner at Marti's in Central Falls. $3.00. Proceeds go to Gay Community Services of Rhode Island.

Next Sunday Rev. Marge Ragona will be preaching in Boston while Rev. Edward Hougen performs his District Coordinator duties in New York. Robert Wellington, exhorter MCC Boston will be leading the service here. Bob is young and personable and we need to support the young ministers in training in our MCC's. Bob's secular job is with GCN, as art director.

Saturday, April 22: Gay Disco at Brown. All invited.

April 24-28: RIC Symposium on Homosexuality.
- Monday: Arnie Kantrowitz and Isabel Miller "Growing up Gay."
- Tuesday: Vito Russo: Images of Gays in the Film (with cuts from "Killing of Sister George," "Boys in the Band," etc.
- Wednesday: ? John Boswell?
- Thursday: Gay Politicians speak out. Jean O'Leary et al.
- Friday: JADE AND SARSPARILLA

Each event is $2.00 at the door. J&S is $4.00 -- with wine and refreshments available. Complete series is $10.00.

LOOK FOR PROJECT RESURRECTION TO START IN THIS CHURCH. We will have an ALL DAY meeting at the Parsonage -- lunch included to begin work on this MCC church renewal program. This Saturday, April 15th. If you are interested in the music program, the Sunday School, Raps, Potluck, outings, fund raisers, or whatever, come and see how we can grow a larger, healthier, wealthier church. SATURDAY, 10:00 a.m.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE
134 Mathewson Street Providence, R.I.
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (401) 272-9247

Second Sunday in Eastertide
April 9, 1978

Singspiration Announcements Meditation

CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION

L: Now God, send forth your springtime
When all things are new.
Cover the earth with the south winds
And soak the fields with warm rain.

P: Touch the air with sunlight
Let new leaves shelter the trees.
Let our hearts become glas, as you lead us into
Our work with rejoicing

L: The dark winter tales and stories of sadness are over.
P: Walk in our land shouting your word of redemption.
L: You call us to follow
P: Let us praise you, forever and ever. Amen.

HYMN: For the Beauty of the Earth #35

Reading from the Scripture:
1st Reading: Psalm 137
2nd Reading: I Peter 1:3-9

Sermon: Babylon, Assyria, Persia and Providence

HYMN: Once to Every Soul and Nation #242

Community Prayer:
Response: Hear, O Lord the Sound of my voice
Hear, O Lord and answer
My soul is longing for the presence of you
Hear, O Lord and answer me.

CRANSTON ST. UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Rev. Jody Stiles, minister
April 16, 1978

SILENCE before the service is helpful to those who wish to pray or meditate.

ORGAN PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP Choir

*OPENING HYMN Faith of our fathers No. 151

SILENT MEDITATION & LORD'S PRAYER

ANTHEM "Amazing Grace" Choir

*RESPONSIVE READING No. 574

*GLORIA PATRI

*APOSTLES' CREED

PASTORAL PRAYER with choral response

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

*HYMN OF PREPARATION Jesus Savior, pilot me No. 247

SCRIPTURE LESSON

SERMON Rev. Stiles

*RECESSIONAL HYMN Take my life No. 187

*BENEDICTION with choral Amen

* indicates the congregation standing.

NOTICES

WELCOME to ALL, particularly visitors.

COVERED DISH LUNCHEON will served in the dining room following the service. Please remain seated downstair until called by the committee.

Following the luncheon there will be a guest speaker.

* * *

***IMPORTANT:
PLEASE let Eleanor Tunnicliffe know TODAY if you are coming to the Casserole Supper on Saturday, April 22nd. There will a sitting at 5 P.M. and one at 6 P.M. This is necessary so the women can know how much food to buy and cook.

* * *

MAY BREAKFAST:
Remember the May Breakfast on May 6th from 6-9. See Bulletin Board for menu and details. The organist has plenty of tivkets for both the Breakfast and the casserole supper.

* * *

FLEA MARKET on May 13th. More later !

* * *

ILLNESS:
Gladys McComb is improving and we hope she can soon be with us again.
Minnie Cauldwell returned Monday from the hospital. Cards for her also would be nice.

The Mystery of Music

POETS and philosophers have paid homage to music. It is the language of the soul. No other art has such universal power to move men—to soothe, stimulate; to make us gay or sad; to set our toes to tapping. As a poet put it:

God is its author, and not man; he laid
The key-note of all harmonies; he planned
All perfect combinations, and he made
Us so that we could hear and understand.

It must be so. For there is not a single emotion of which man is capable that cannot—has not—been expressed in music. It has been the language of lovers for centuries. It has conveyed the loneliness of the cowboy on the vast, open plains; the exuberance of release from long hard toil expressed in the lively strains of a barn dance; the emotional heights and depths of human experience passed down to us in the works of Bach, Beethoven, Wagner and other immortals of the art too numerous to mention.

As Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone". Music enriches the mind and the spirit. It brings to our material civilization the priceless boon of beauty. It is all that Sir Thomas Browne said of it when he wrote:

"Music strikes in me a deep devotion, and a profound contemplation of the First Composer. There is something in it of Divinity more than the ear discovers."

The Trinity of Music

Litho in U.S.A.
1-9-77

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE
134 Mathewson Street
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor
Providence, R.I.
(401) 272-9247

Third Sunday After Easter
April 23, 1978

SINGSPIRATION ANNOUNCEMENTS MEDITATION

Call to Worship: L: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.
P: Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy!
L: Then we said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for us, we are glad."
B: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy!
L: Those who go forth weeping, bearin the seed for sowing,
P: Shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing sheaves with us.

Harry

Hymn: "How Great Thou Art" M#17

Reading from the Scripture: John 9 (selected verses)

Sermon: Are We Blind Also?

Hymn: Open Mine Eyes M 267

Bart

Community Prayer, followed by the Lord's Prayer
Response: Hear Our Prayer, O Lord

Worship with our Tithes and Offerings
Offertory
Doxology

Communion H ymn: Let Us Break Bread Together M 330

Rusty

Prayer of Confession: Loving God: We are often punished by our own sin and blind to the word of hope you offer us. We hate others and ourselves, our fears keep us in chains, our pride prisons us. We know that you have the key of forgiveness that opens the locks and frees us again and again. Teach us to confess our wrongdoing and to free ourselves through your love; teach us also to forgive each other and set us both free. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Words of Assurance: This is the message we have heard from Jesus and proclaim to you, that God is light in in God there is no darkness at all. If we walk in the light, as Christ is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. Amen.

The Lord's Supper

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Closing Hymn: O Jesus, I have Provmised M 164

Benediction

* * * * * * * * * * *

Join us downstairs for coffee and conversation. We welcome you to MCC and hope you will return again.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THERE WILL BE NO POTLUCK THIS WEDNESDAY. Most of us are involved in the Rode Island College Symposium on Homosexuality, and Wednesday evening Brian McNaught will be the speaker. We suggest that this would be a good program for all of our people to hear.

Monday: RIC Symposium: Arnie Kantrowitz, author of UNDER THE RAINBOW: GROWING UP GAY will be there. Also Isabel Miller, author of PATIENCE AND SARAH. Both are well worth hearing.

Tuesday: RIC symposium: Vito Russo (not the one at City Hall!) will bring film clips from Hollywood movies about gays. You won't want to miss this one!

Wednesday: Gary Drake on Gays and Mental Health, and Brian McNaught on Gays and the Church. Don't miss it.

Thursday: Jean O'Leary of the National Gay Task Force on Gays and the Political Process.

Friday: Two feminist singers -- Cheryl Wheeler and Donna Price -- don't miss this one either.

Full week costs $6.00 and includes the coffeehouse on Friday. Separate tickets are $2.00 each and the coffee house is $3.00. Big saving for the entire week.

Prison Ministry needs Kool Cigarettes for a gay prisoner on trial at Superior Court. See Connie if you want to help. Our Prison Ministry has been very busy and very effective lately. Connie Di Cenzo is doing a fine job of working with gay and straight prisoners and we need your input and your help. Cookies will be sold at the RIC Symposium for PM benefit. If you want to bake some, see Connie.

Soft drinks will be sold at RIC Symposium for benefit of the church.

Saturday: Bonnie Stewart and Carol Burgeson will have their Holy Union at the Parsonage on Saturday at 6:00 p.m. You are invited to the service and for a glass of wine following it.

Congregational Meeting Sunday May 7th. Also new members will be received. If you want to join the church, please see Rev. Marge today. We need to elect a new Board member on the 7th.

District Conference in Boston weekend of May 19, 20, 21. Anyone wishing registration forms please see Rev. Marge. Registration is $10.00 and covers lodging for 2 nights and food on Saturday. Let's go be a presence. There are questionaires from the Lay Concerns Office which need to be filled out. Please see Rev. Marge for these.

May 2: Gay Political Caucus, 55 Eddy Street, 7:30 p.m.
May 4: Board Meeting
May 11: Deacon's Class
May 13: "nd Saturday at the Mediator
May 14: PENTECOST!!

These are busy days for us all. Remember that we have a Gong Show coming up, and a 50/50 Raffle. Workers are needed. See the Deacons if you want to help.

SIXTH SUNDAY IN EASTERTIDE
April 30, 1978

9 AM WJAR Radio — *Worship 10 AM*

Jesus speaks of his ministry as a call to the liberation of those who are oppressed, imprisoned, sick, or poor. We believe that if the church is to be truly responsive to that call, it must be a Liberating Force in the world. The first mark of that liberating community is a clear and unequivocal commitment to the poorest, weakest, and most abused members of the human family.

We try also to hear the promise of the Gospel, that healing and liberation are not only for others; they are meant for us as well, in the places where our lives are broken, or hurting, or bogged down in the everyday details of our living. We believe that God loves us and accepts us as we are - and in that acceptance we are liberated, set free, to do God's work in the world.

ORGAN PRELUDE
GREETINGS AND CONCERNS
CHORAL INTROIT
GREETING TO THE RADIO CONGREGATION
CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The spirit of the Lord is upon us, because he has anointed us to preach good news to the poor.
C: HE HAS SENT US TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES,
L: And recovery of sight to the blind,
C: TO SET AT LIBERTY THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, TO PROCLAIM THE ACCEPTABLE YEAR OF THE LORD.

*HYMN OF CELEBRATION NO. 200 (sung to alt. tune "Aurelia")
The Voice of God is Calling

AFFIRMATION OF THE PURPOSE AND MISSION OF THE CHURCH

L: The people of God are the church made visible in the world.
C: IT IS THEY WHO MUST CONVINCE THE WORLD OF THE REALITY OF THE GOSPEL OR LEAVE IT UNCONVINCED.
L: There can be no evasion or delegation of this responsibility.
C: THE CHURCH IS EITHER FAITHFUL AS A WITNESSING AND SERVING COMMUNITY, OR IT LOSES ITS VITALITY AND ITS IMPACT ON AN UNBELIEVING WORLD.

from the Book of Discipline
of the United Methodist Church

*GLORIA PATRI
SOLO *Jerusalem! Thou That Killest the Prophets*
LINDA FONTES, SOPRANO — MENDELSSOHN
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
ANTHEM *I Will Rejoice in the Lord* — HOVHANESS
I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The Lord God is my strength... and he will make me to walk upon mine high places.
THE WORD FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
*HYMN OF PREPARATION NO. 469
Father Eternal, Ruler of Creation
THE WRITTEN WORD Luke 4:18,19 (NT p. 58)
THE SPOKEN WORD "DID HE REALLY MEAN THAT?" MR. TRENCH
OFFERING
(A portion of our offering this morning supports the ecumenical ministries of the Rhode Island State Council of Churches.)
ORGAN OFFERTORY
DOXOLOGY AND DEDICATION

L: He has showed, O people. what is good. What does the Lord require of you?
C: TO DO JUSTICE, TO LOVE KINDNESS, AND TO WALK HUMBLY WITH OUR GOD.

*HYMN OF DEDICATION NO. 470
God of Grace and God of Glory
BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE
ORGAN POSTLUDE

****

NEXT SUNDAY is our day to exchange preachers and musicians with the Olney St. Baptist Church. Our guest preacher will be the Rev. Cornelius Williams. You will want to make a special effort to be here to greet Mr. Williams, the members of his choir, and a number of people from his church.

****

THIS WEEK

ALSO TODAY:
- 10:00 AM - Nursery Care
- 10:30 AM - Church School Classes
- 11:05 AM - Coffee and Fellowship
- 11:30 AM - Choir Rehearsal
- 11:30 PM - Member Care Work Area/Dr. Ziegler's office
- 7:30 PM - New Focus

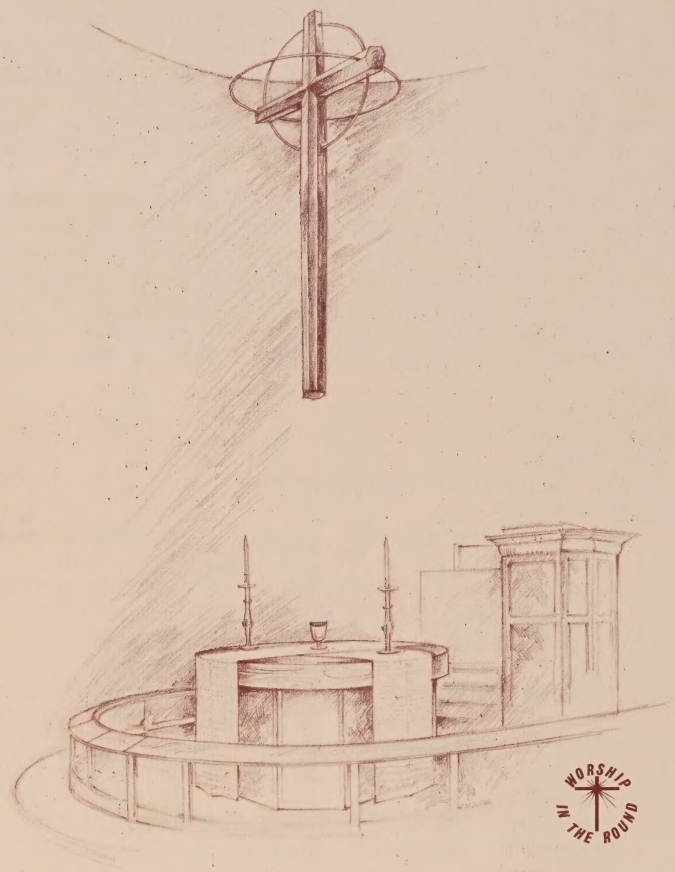
TUESDAY:
- 10:00 AM - Leisure and Learning
- 8:00 PM - Homebuilders meet in the Vivian Grant Room

WEDNESDAY:
- 6:30 PM - Susanna Wesley Community meets at the Rushworths' home for dinner and meeting

THURSDAY:
- 9-11 AM - Staff Meeting

****

MATHEWSON STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PROVIDENCE, R. I.



• Ministers •

Wilbur C. Ziegler

William C. Trench

• Bishop •

Edward G. Carroll

• Superintendent •

J. Gary Campbell

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
134 Mathewson Street Providence, R.I.
Rev. Marge Ragona (401) 272-9247

Fifth Sunday after Easter
April 30, 1978

SINSPIRATION MEDITATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rusty

Call to Worship: We are children of God. We stand in communion with all persons everywhere. We come to this place to hear again of God's love that calls us to a transforming care that reaches around the world.

HYMN: From All That Dwell M#14

Scripture II Cor. 5:11, 14-21

Sermon: Reconciled to What? Rev. Ragona
Hymn: The Church's One Foundation M. #297
Community Prayers
Response; Hear Our Prayers

Marge

Offering
Offertory
Doxology

Communion Hymn: Here, O My Lord M. #327

Prayer of Confession

Harry

L: Christ is a mirror revealing to us how far we have fallen short of God's perfect love. We must admit our failures before God for this is the only way we can receive new strength to live more effectively.

P: God, who is both Mother and Father to us, we know how often our world is torn by misunderstanding, and we know how much this pains you. We know that we are responsible for much of the tornness. There have been times when we have been quick to accuse and slow to forgive. There have been times when we have let small differences mushroom into vast difficulties, while at the same time we ignore important understandings that should be drawing us together in love. For our tendency to push hate before love and angry accusation before patient understanding, forgive us God. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

The Lord's Supper
Song of Thanksgiving:
Now Our God is with us, let us make
Thanksgiving For the joy within us living
In this holy temple, at this holy table
Hope and life God will enable.
Now we leave, and believe, that God will
restore us for the work before us.

Closing Hymn: Lord, I Want to be a Christian
M #286

Benediction

* * * * * * * *

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you all for the help with the R. I. College Symposium. We made a total of $21.00 on coffee and sodas, and $28.00 on cookies (for the Prison Ministry). This enabled Connie and Belle to go to the Prison Ministry Conference in Brooklyn this weekend. Our first project under Operation Resurrection was a success.

Mon. May 1: LFU meets at 55 Eddy
Tues. May 2: Gay Political Caucus at 55 Eddy
Wed. May 3: Potluck and May followup on Project Resurrection -- We need raffle tickets for the 50/50 raffle and volunteers to sell them.

Thurs. May 4: Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Sat. May 13: Second Saturday
Sun. Liturgy/Eucharist at Dignity, 2p.m.
at McCauley House
Sun. May 14-- Pentecost!

Fri-Sun May 19-21: District Conference in Boston. See Rev. Marge for registration forms. Also we have questionaires to fill out for Office of Lay Concerns.

THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ the Lord
We are the new creation by water and the word
From heaven Christ came and sought us
To be the holy bride
With precious blood Christ bought us, and for our life Christ died.

Elect from every nation yet one o'er all the earth
The charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith one birth;
We share one holy blessing, partake one holy food
To one hope we are pressing, with every grace endued.

Mid toil and tribulation and tumult of our war
We wait the consummation of peace forevermore.
Till with the vision glorius, our longing eyes are blest
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Mark 2:23-28

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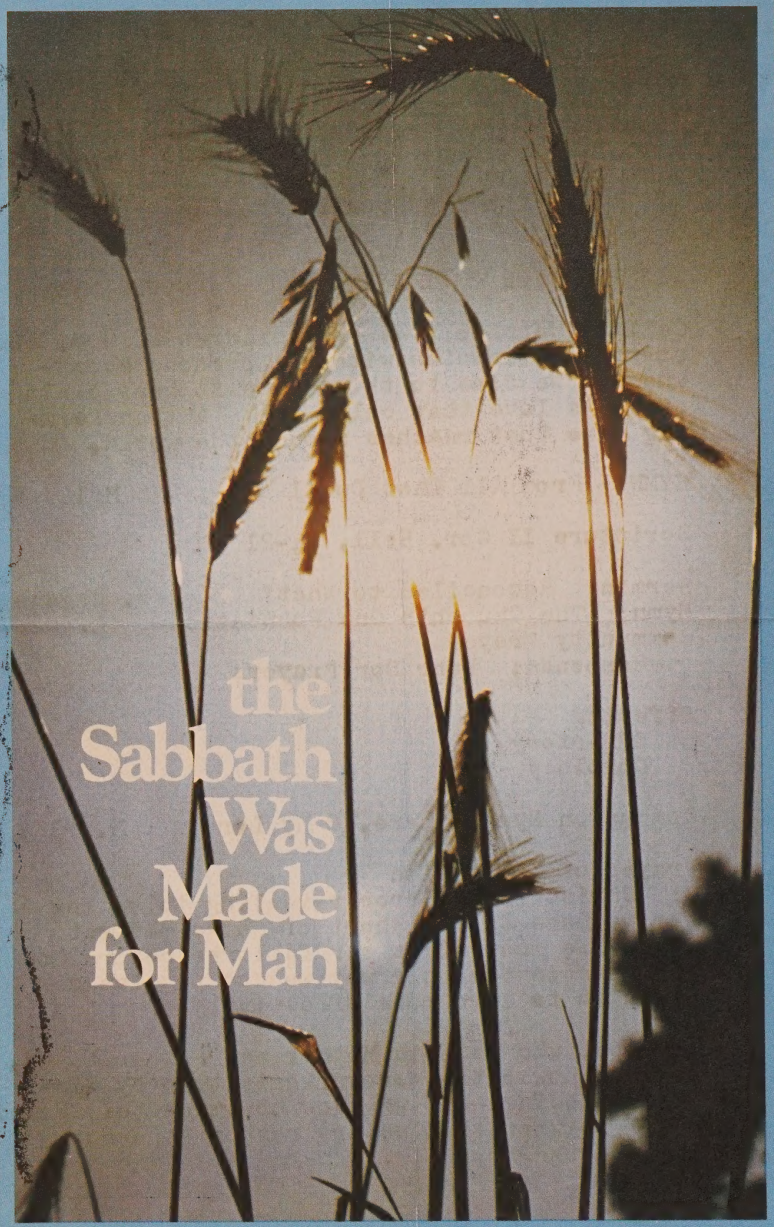


SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION DAY
May 7, 1978

9 AM WJAR Radio — Worship 10 AM

PRELUDE
GREETINGS AND CONCERNS
INTROIT
GREETING TO THE RADIO CONGREGATION
CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We come to worship not because it is a duty,
C: BUT BECAUSE IT IS A DELIGHT.
L: Not because the church tells us to,
C: BUT BECAUSE GOD HAS CALLED TO US;
L: Not to display to the world our fine garb,
C: BUT TO WITNESS TO THE WORLD OUR FAITH IN GOD;
L: Not to smirk at others because of our goodness,
C: BUT TO SEARCH TOGETHER FOR GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS;
L: Not to listen as others are condemned,
C: BUT TO FACE HOW WE HAVE SINNED;
L: Not to take away whatever we choose,
C: BUT TO GO AWAY FITTED FOR SERVICE.
ALL: LIVING GOD, AT THE POINT OF OUR NEED, AT OUR PROUD, SORE SPOTS, AT OUR EMPTY GAPS, AT OUR COMFORTABLE CORNERS OF SELF - WE WOULD ENCOUNTER YOU! AMEN.

*HYMN OF CELEBRATION NO. 1
O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF REFLECTION

L: O God, we know ourselves as those who violate your creation.
C: WE LIVE IN THE "NO".
L: We speak loudly of wanting our lives to count for something.
C: AND YET WE DRIFT EASILY INTO AN ENDLESS STREAM OF EASY TOMORROWS.
L: We want to give ourselves.
C: BUT WE FEAR RECEIVING OTHERS INTO OUR LIVES.
L: We complain about the lack of understanding.
C: YET WE KNOW THAT, REALLY, WE PREFER NOT TO LISTEN.
L: We see the disparity of rich and poor in the world.
C: BUT WE CLING TO OUR POSSESSIONS, AS IF BY LOSING THEM WE WOULD LOSE A PORTION OF OURSELVES.
L: Turn us about this day in the neatly made rut we have worn!
C: THE "NO" IN LIFE IS NOT ENOUGH!
L: Christ the wayshower spoke of life...
C: HELP US TO SEE HOPE WHERE OTHERS SEE ONLY DESPAIR!
L: Christ the wayshower spoke of love...
C: HELP US TO LOVE WHEN THOSE ABOUT US ARE THE LEAST LOVEABLE!
L: Christ the one for others spoke of joy...
C: LET OUR JOY BE FULL THIS DAY AS WE TAKE HOLD OF OUR LIFE TOGETHER AS A FORGIVEN AND FORGIVING COMMUNITY! AMEN.

SOLO
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
ANTHEM
THE WORD FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
*HYMN OF PREPARATION NO. 224
Blessed Assurance
THE WRITTEN WORD Acts 9:1-15 (NT p. 120)
THE SPOKEN WORD THE REV. CORNELIUS WILLIAMS
"CHRIST'S TRANSFORMING POWER"
OFFERING
(A portion of the offering this morning supports the hunger relief programs of the United Methodist Church.)
OFFERTORY
*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

L: Strengthen, O Lord, the hands which have been stretched out to receive Your gifts; use them to do your work in the world.
C: GRANT THAT THE EYES WHICH HAVE SEEN YOUR LOVE IN THIS PLACE MAY ALSO SEE IT IN THE DEEP NEEDS AND GIFTS OF ALL OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS:
L: that the ears which have heard Your Word may be opened to the cry of Your children for bread and justice;
C: THAT THE TONGUES WHICH HAVE SPOKEN YOUR PRAISE MAY ALSO SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE;
ALL: THAT WE WHO HAVE FED ON YOU IN OUR HEARTS BY FAITH MAY THIS WEEK LIVE WITH A BIT MORE GRATITUDE, DARING, JOY AND VISION, IN THE STRENGTH OF JESUS CHRIST, OUR SAVIOR AND COMPANION! AMEN!

*HYMN OF DEDICATION NO. 164
O Jesus, I Have Promised
BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE
POSTLUDE

****

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL this morning are given by Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Loader in memory of loved ones.

****

THIS WEEK

ALSO TODAY:
10:00 AM - Nursery Care
10:30 AM - Church School Classes
11:05 AM - Coffee and fellowship
7:30 PM - New Focus

MONDAY:
5:30 PM - Finance Committee

WEDNESDAY:
6:15 PM - United Methodist Women

THURSDAY:
9:00 AM - Staff Meeting

****

NOYE'S FLUDDE - Tickets for Grace Church's production of this Benjamin Britten work are available in the church office. We have purchased a block of 50 tickets for Friday evening (7:30 PM); cost for these tickets is only $1.00. Tickets for the Saturday afternoon and Sunday performances are available at the Grace Church office.

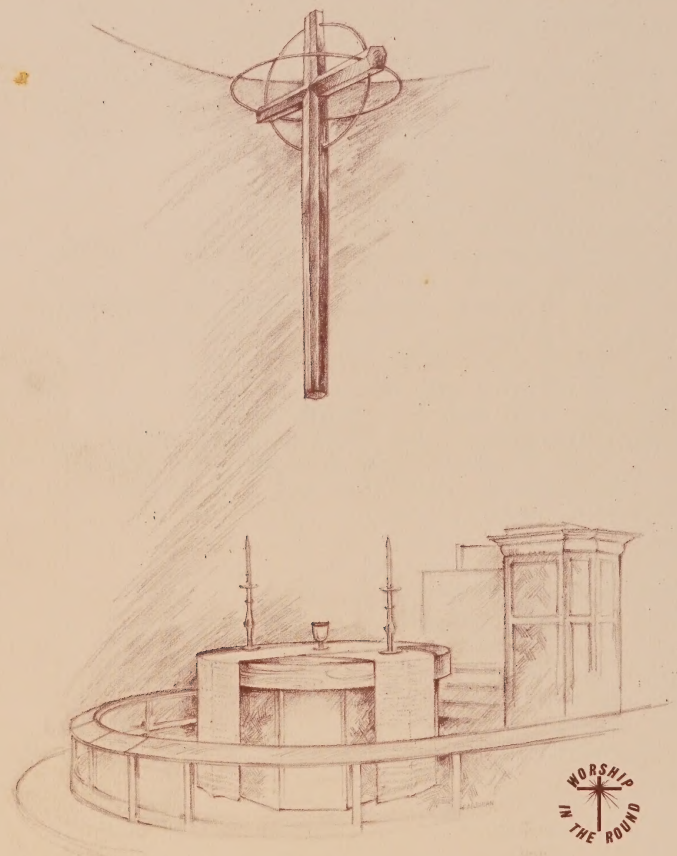
****

NEXT SUNDAY: PENTECOST
CONFIRMATION
HOLY COMMUNION
Mr. Trench will preach.

****

WE WELCOME today The Rev. Cornelius Williams, pastor of the Olney St. Baptist Church, his pianist, choir, and members of his church family. We welcome this opportunity to strengthen the bonds of friendship and fellowship between our two churches.

MATHEWSON STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PROVIDENCE, R. I.



• Ministers •
Wilbur C. Ziegler
William C. Trench

• Bishop •
Edward G. Carroll

• Superintendent •
J. Gary Campbell

Sunday, May 21, 1978

Welcome to the Service of Worship. The Fellowship Hour at 11:30 is an integral part of the morning's activities. Do join us!

Crossroads deadline today at 1:00 p.m.

This Week:

Tuesday: Mothers and Others, 9:15 a.m.
Music Committee, 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday: Good-As-New Shop, 10:00 - 4:00

Thursday: R. E. Committee, 7:30 p.m.

Next Sunday:

Regular schedule plus play rehearsal at 11:30
Sermon: Beyond Nationalism to World Community
Junior Youth Group slave auction

Coming:

Social Action Committee, Tuesday, May 30
Program Committee, Thursday, June 1
Board of Directors, Tuesday, June 6

Sunday, June 4
The Church School Play - QUEST

Order of Worship

Prelude

Call to Worship

*Hymn No. 266 - Morning has Broken

*Unison Affirmation No. 509

*Doxology
Immortal love, forever full!
Immortal love, forever free!
Forever shared, forever whole,
A constant, never-ebbing sea. Amen

A Report on Amnesty International by Bob Brainerd

Duet - Domine Deus (from Mass in C Minor) Mozart
Judy Davis, Soprano
Mary Crowe, Mezzo-Soprano

Meditation - All Are Citizens Carl J. Nelson

Anthem - Ave Verum Corpus Mozart

Offering and Announcements

*Hymn No. 180 - Earth Is Enough

Sermon - Gay Rights and Responsibilities

General Discussion

Fellowship Hour in Unity Hall. The Church School will be rehearsing the play during this time, so parents are advised to linger awhile.

Welcome to the Unitarian Universalist Area Church! Please fill in this form, especially if this is your first visit here. It may be given to an usher or placed in the offering plate.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ **First visit?** _____

I would like to receive the newsletter _____

I would like information about the church _____

I would like information about the program of religious education _____

I would like the minister to call _____

Enjoy the service and come again!

Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:30 to 2:00 — 653-1422

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Ed Gooding	653-0415
Clerk	Ben Carroll	655-3244
Adult Programs	Jerry Kindness	653-1363
Denominational Affairs	Jan Vanderbie	653-1421
Finance	Leon Hopper	653-1860
Membership/Hospitality	Peg Buntin	653-9484
Property	Bob Buntin	653-9484
Religious Education	Tinkie Vanderbie	653-1421
Social Action	Loretta Lee	653-4818
Worship	Virginia Fiske	653-5462
Member at large	Helen Sicotte	429-1087
Member at large	Karl Pease	655-1330
CUSTODIAN	Millard Davis	653-0861
ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR	Ed Fenninger	489-0169
MINISTER	Deane Starr	653-6909

11 WASHINGTON STREET, P.O. BOX 158, SHERBORN, MASSACHUSETTS 01770 617-653-1422

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST AREA CHURCH

OW (617) 227-5088

MCC (617) 523-7664

M

SHERBORN, MASSACHUSETTS

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE
134 Mathewson Street Providence, R.I.
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (401) 272-9247

SECOND SUNDAY IN PENTECOST
May 21, 1978

Singspiration Meditation Announcements

Call to WorshiP
L: My soul waits upon God from whom comes my salvation.
P: God is my rock and my salvation; my defense; I shall not be moved.
L: In God is my salvation and my glory, the rock of my strength and my refuge.
P: Trust in God at all times, ye people, pour out your hearts before God.
L: God is a refuge for us. Unto thee, O God, belongs mercy.
P: My sould wait upon the Lord, for my hope is in God. (From Psalm 62)

Opening Hymn: How Great Thou Art M 17

Scripture Reading: Luke 7:2-10, Rom.6:16-23

Sermon: Bondage & Discipline Rev. Ragona

Hymn: O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee M170

Prayers of the People
Response: Hear Our Prayers, O God

Worship with our Tithes and Offerings
Doxology:

Communion Hymn: Jesus, I Come SS 122

The Lords Supper
Prayer of Confession: Eternal God, take from us the pride that makes us deny that we, too, can and do sin. Makes us sorry for the ways we have wounded one another. Keep us penitent for our neglect of those who suffer, for the sick we have not visited, for the hungry we have not fed, for the nakes we have not clothed, for the prisoners we have not set free. Especially, deepen our sadness for not having loved enough the holy, the innocent, the guileless. Humble us now in our darkness and make us ready to receive your Light, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Breaking of Bread/The Blessing of Wine

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sung Thanksgiving:
Now our God is with us
Let us make Thanksgiving
For the joy within us living.
In this holy temple, at this holy table
Hope and life God will enable.
Now we leave, and believe
That God will restore us
For the work before us.

Closing Hymn: I Have Decided FC 33

Benediction/Passing of the Peace

* * * * * * * *

We welcome the Falcons Motorcycle Club as our guests today. We wish to show our appreciation to them for their kindness to our children at Christmas.

Remember to pick up your raffle tickets and to sell them. 50% of all we sell is prize money -- the other half goes to support this church through the summer months. HELP!

REMEMBER THE GONG SHOW GAY PRIDE WEEK.

OUR GOD IS LIKE AN EAGLE

When Israel camped in Sinai, then Moses
heard the Lord,
This message tell the people, and give them
this my word,
From Egypt I was with you, and carried on
my wing
The whole of your great people from slav'ry
I did bring.

Just as a mother eagle, who helps her young
to fly
I am a Mother to you, your needs I will
supply
And you are as my children, my own who hear
my voice
I am a Mother to you, the people of my choic

If God is like and Eagle, who helps her your
to fly
And God is also Father, then what of you an
I?
We have no fear of labels, we have no fear
of roles,
If God's own being blends them, we seek the
self-same goals.

Our God is not a woman, our God is not a man,
Our God is both and neither, our God is I
who Am,
From all the roles that bind us, our God has
set us free,
What freedom does God give us, the freedom
just to be!

* * * * * * * *

Needed: Volunteers to take Prison Ministry
cans to the bars. See Rev. Marge.

Come downstairs after service for coffee and
conve sation. We're glad you're here.

Luke 7:1-10

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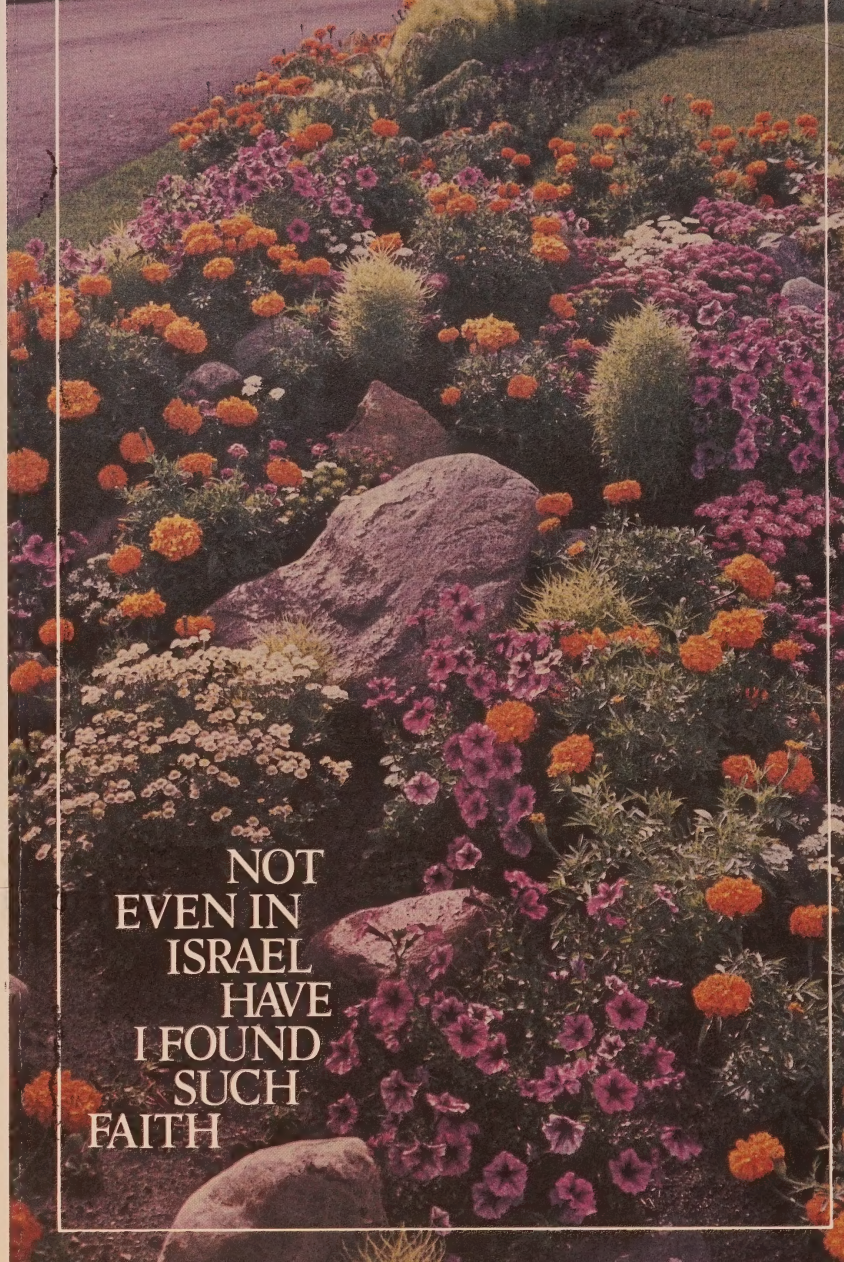

THIRD SUNDAY IN PENTECOST
May 28, 1978

9 AM WJAR Radio *Worship 10 AM*

ORGAN PRELUDE *Opening Movement, Organ Concerto* HANDEL
 # 13 in B-flat

GREETINGS AND CONCERNS

CHORAL INTROIT

GREETING TO THE RADIO CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Let us come together and worship in the spirit of One who unites us all,

C: IN THE SPIRIT OF JESUS CHRIST.

L: Let us remember that we are God's chosen people;

C: CHOSEN TO BE THE CHURCH, GOD'S SERVANTS IN THE WORLD.

L: We gather with a common need for renewal,

C: WITH A COMMON NEED FOR FELLOWSHIP.

L: We seek the spirit of the Lord as it moves among this people.

C: LET US CELEBRATE THAT PRESENCE AS WE LISTEN AND SPEAK AND PRAY AND SING TOGETHER!

*HYMN OF CELEBRATION NO. 91
When Morning Gilds the Skies

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: From arrogance, pompousness, and from thinking ourselves more important than we are,

C: MAY SOME SAVING SENSE OF HUMOR LIBERATE US.

L: From the temptations of self-pity, the enjoyment of poor health, and the manipulation of others through our own weakness,

C: MAY WE HAVE THE GRACE TO CEASE.

L: From being bearers of despair, of cynicism, and of ridicule of what is young, new, and just getting started,

C: MAY WE BE DELIVERED.

L: From being bearers of new narrowness, and of making fun of what is old or recognized, yet filled with meaning,

C: MAY WE BE SPARED.

L: For permitting our own lack of faith to be the occasion for destroying the faith of others and for belittling others and their efforts when we ought to build them up and support them,

C: MAY WE BE FORGIVEN.

L: From special privilege and calling it justice, from indifference and calling it tolerance, from exhorbitant living and calling it progress,

C: MAY WE BE CURED.

L: From telling ourselves and others that evil is inevitable, while good is impossible,

C: MAY WE BE CORRECTED.

L: God of our mixed up, aspiring, doubting, and hopeful lives, help us to be as good as in our hearts we have always wanted to be. Fill us with your Spirit, as we name our wrongs... and let them go...

(SILENT PRAYERS)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

L: Comfort, comfort my people; it is the voice of your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and to Providence and to the whole world. Your emptiness is at an end, your sins are forgiven, your future wide open! You are my people, for you I give myself, and I shall never let you go!

SOLO *O Misericordissime Jesu* SCHUTZ
RICHARD JOSEPH, TENOR

O most merciful Jesus, O most sweet Jesus,
O most gracious Jesus. O Jesus, strong in hope and
belief, forgive our sins, and save us.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ANTHEM *Evening Hymn* GARDINER

Thee, Lord, before the close of day, Maker of all
things, Thee we pray for Thy dear loving kindness'
sake to guard and guide us in Thy way.
Banish the dreams that terrify, and night's
fantastic company: keep us from Satan's tyranny:
defend us from unchastity.
Protect us, Father, God ador'd, Thou too, co-equal
Son and Lord, Thou, Holy Ghost, our advocate, whose
reign can know nor bound nor date. Amen.

THE WORD FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

*HYMN OF PREPARATION NO. 138
Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

THE WRITTEN WORD I Corinthians 11:17-26 (NT p. 163)
THE SPOKEN WORD MR. TRENCH

"THE RISK OF HEALING"

OFFERING

(A portion of this morning's offering goes to support the work of the Hattie B. Cooper Community Center in Boston.)

ORGAN OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

L: Can anything separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble, pain, or grief? Lack of clothes and food, danger to life, the threat of military might?

C: NO! IN ALL THESE THINGS WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS THROUGH HIM WHO LOVED US. FOR WE ARE CONVINCED THAT NEITHER DEATH NOR LIFE, NEITHER WHAT HAPPENS TODAY NOR WHAT MAY HAPPEN TOMORROW, NEITHER A POWER FROM ON HIGH NOR A POWER FROM BELOW, NOR ANYTHING ELSE IN ALL CREATION HAS ANY POWER TO SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.

*HYMN OF DEDICATION NO. 545

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

BENEDICTION

L: This service is ended.

C: BUT OUR FELLOWSHIP AS A COMMUNITY CONTINUES.

L: In a world and time torn by violence, suspicion and despair, you are the church of God.

C: WE ARE A COMMUNITY OF CONCERN, A PIONEER FOR CHANGE, A SOURCE OF HOPE AND HELP; WE ARE THE CHURCH OF GOD.

L: Go, knowing that you are continually loved and charged with the task of loving others.

ORGAN POSTLUDE

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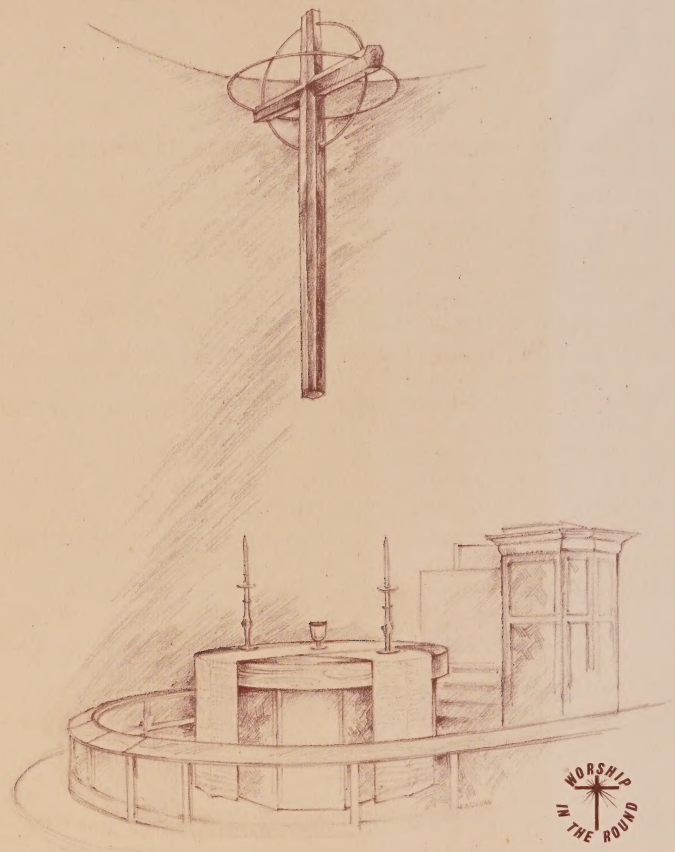
MATHEWSON STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PROVIDENCE, R. I.



• Ministers •

Wilbur C. Ziegler — William C. Trench

• Bishop • Edward G. Carroll

• Superintendent • J. Gary Campbell

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor — Providence, Rhode Is.
134 Mathewson Street — (401)272,9247

Second Sunday after Pentecost
May 28, 1978

Opening Hymn: Joyful,Joyful We Adore Thee (Overside)

Call to Worship: O give thanks to the Lord who is good, for steadfast love that endures for ever!
P: Le t the redeemed of the Lord whom God has redeemed from trouble say so.
L: We have been gathered in from many lands, from wandering in desert wastes, finding no way to a city to dwell in.
P: We ha ve been hungry and thirsty and our souls fainted within us.
L: Then we cried to the Lord in our trouble and were delivered from our distress.
P: Let us thank the Lord for steadfast love, let us offer our thanksgiving and tell of God's deeds in songs of joy! (Ps. 107)

Reading from the Scripture: Acts 10:Selected verses.

Sermon: "God is No Respecter of Persons" Rev. Marge Ragona

Hymn: Be Thou My Vison (Overside)

Worship with our Tithes and offerings
Doxology

Prayers of the People
Response: Hear Our Prayers
Communion Hymn: Break Thou the Bread of Life #369
The Lord's Supper (See attached sheet)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sung Thanksgiving:
How our God is with us, let us make Thanksgiving
For the joys within us living
In this holy temple,at this holy table
Hope and live God does enable.
Now we leave, and believe, that God will restore us
For the work before us.
Closing Hymn: For All the Saints #536

Benediction

* * * * * * * * * * * *

We welcome you to Metropolitan Community Church and hope you will join us downstairs for coffee and conversation. There are MCC's in over 103 cities throughout the U.S., Canada, England, Australia ad in Africa. MCC Providence is nearly five years old, and we welcome the participation of other Christians who understand God's inclusive love for all people.

Wednesday: 7:30 Potluck. Bring a dish and join us. For those who do not cook, there is a $.50 charge. The food is good and the companionship excellent.

Thursday: 7:00 p.m. Deacons' meeting. Please bring your "homework" and be prepared to talk about the use of the Deacon's Fund.
8:30 ;.m. Board meeting: Important that we discuss the opinions expressed at District Conference. Also follow up on Project Resurrection. Every member of the church is invited.

Monday: June 5 6:30 March to the State House by Christians and Jews to commemorate the Holocaust. All gay people should be at this march wearing pink triagle buttons to remind our co-religionists that we were also present in the gas chambers along with the Jews and the Christian clergy.

Saturday: June 10th: "Second Saturday" at the Mediator. Program on Gay Health care.

Tuesday: June 13th: Gay Political Caucus fund raiser at the Fife and Drum.

JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE THEE

Joyful, joyful, we adore theee,
God of glory, God of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before
thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
Drive the dark of doubt away
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us w ith the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee,
Earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
Moon and stars sing all around
thee;
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale & mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain,
Call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
We on earth are all thy children,
All who live in love are thine.
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus,
Which the morning stars began;
All creation sings before us,
Raise we now the glad refrain.
Ever singing, moving onward,
Loving in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.

BE THOU MY VISION

Be thou my vision, O God of my
heart,
Naught be all else to me,
Save that thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or
by night
Waking or sleeping, thy presence
my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my
true word
I ever with thee, and thou with me
God
Thou my cre-a-tor, I truly thine
Thou in me dwelling, and thy will
be mine.

Riches I heed not, no one's empty
praise
Thou mine inheritance, now and
always
Thou and thou only first in my hear
God of all people, my treasure
thou art.

Great God of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O
bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever
befall
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

* * * * * * * * * * * *

Friday, June 16th: Fund raiser for "Part of the Process" at Marti's.

Saturday: June 17th: Gay Pride Day, Boston. MCC's from this area are invited to march in a New Englandwise protest.

Sunday, June 18th: Gay Memorial Day Service -- jointly with Dignity and the gay people of Providence.

Monday; June 19th: Fund raiser for NGTF-RI affiliate.

Friday, June 23rd: Fund raiser for GCS-rI at the Gallery. Raffle for a liquor basket also.

Saturday, June 24th: Pool Party at the T&C. Fund raiser for NGTF-RI.

June 25th: GAY PRIDE DAY NEW YORK -- Christopher Street Day March.

Tuesday, June 27th: Help Line Open Meeting.

Friday, June 30th: Coffee House at the Big Mother to benefit Lesbian Feminist Union.

Saturday, July 1: CHURCH PICNIC at Slater's Park.

You are invited to all of these activities. Instead of a Gay Pride March in Providence, we will continue our own activities. If you do not agree with this schedule, and you feel there should be a march, contact John Gaffney via the Help Line and voice your disapproval. However, be prepared to have MCC people be the only one's who will speak out and march. The rest of the community does not feel that a march will do anything to help the situaton. Their faith is not as strong as ours in that they are under God's protection and that they can be visible and open and still maintain their jobs and homes. Can we convince them otherwise?

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE + MAY 28, 1978
The Celebration of the Eucharist - Communion with Christ
++

NOTE: After the Communion Hymn, please take your hymnal and this sheet and come up into the Sanctuary and form a circle around the altar.

Prayer of Confession:

L - Sisters and brothers, we have, day after day, offended God in thought, word, and deed. We have dishonored Christ's name by our carelessness. By our slackness, we have prevented God's purposes for ourselves and for others from being fulfilled. We contrive excuses fashioned to hide our faltering loyalty from ourselves, and from God, but who are we really fooling? God, who's love and loyalty to us is unfailing, is always ready to forgive us when we stray. Let us each, silently, take this time to speak to our Lord about our lives and confess our failings.

(Pause for silent prayer, then...)

P - O God, we are sorry for what we have done: for the meanness, for envy, for gossip and for self-pity. For our small daily sins and for our large collective sins whereby we injure the peace within ourselves and with others, which in turn alienates us from you. We pray your forgiveness, for without you, Lord, we are a broken and divided people. In your mercy, mend us, unite us, and make us useful carriers of your love. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

L - You have promised us that whatever we would ask in Jesus' name, we have already received. We know that you love us and forgive us, and we claim your promise, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Celebration of the Eucharist:

L - In the Early Church, for perhaps some 300 years, Christian women and men would secretly gather together to share in an experience which involved great risk to themselves and to thier loved ones. To be a Christian, in those days, was not exactly the thing to do. Still, these women and men would gather in small groups in the homes of friends. They would sing songs to God and tell stories about Jesus. They would dance and celebrate to the glory of the Lord. They would share a meal around an ordinary table and they would remember the night before Jesus died, when he gathered his friends together to share a meal much like their own. Using ordinary bread and common wine, they prayed over, blessed and offered to God, these humble gifts, as they recalled Christ into their presence. By their faith, in Jesus' words, they believed the bread and wine to become the Body and Blood of Christ.

+And now, in our own way, let us humbly pray to do the same here at this table.

P - We thank you, our Heavenly Creator, for this table to which we come, remembering our Lord whose Body was broken and whose Blood was poured out that we may have life. Give us a new vision and a more perfect appreciation of Your infinite love and mercy.

L - Let these emblems speak to us of redemption from sin and of life eternal which we know through Jesus whose life, death, and resurrection are represented here. Help us to forget the lesser things that so engross us and help us to fix our attention on that quality of life which is eternal. Give us strength to face temptation, courage to meet any evil that confronts us, and forgiveness for our failures, in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

P - Merciful God, we your children assemble in your name and in your house to break bread and drink of the cup in memory of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Grant that we may have understanding and humility as we seek to recall Christ into our midst as we re-enact our Lord's last supper.

God, we who are gathered here by faith, through our prayers and common intention, recall Jesus into our presence through these elements of bread and wine.

We bless them, consecrate them, and offer them to you, trusting in faith that they will become for us, the Body and Blood of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

P - We now recall to mind that on the night before he was to suffer, Jesus gathered his disciples together for the Passover meal which was to be his last supper with them.

L - As they were eating, Jesus took some bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to them saying, "This broken bread is my Body which shall be broken for you on tree of the cross. Take it, and eat it, all of you in remembrance of me."
When the supper was done, he took up the last cup of wine, blessed it and gave it to them saying, "This wine is the token of God's new covenant to save you - a covenant sealed with my blood, which I shall pour out to purchase back your souls. Drink it, all of you, in remembrance of me."

P - In memory of that last supper, we come to this table today, knowing that here we may come as near to Calvary as we may come...remembering the "Lamb of God who has taken away the sin of the world"...remembering the many witnesses, all of whom have laid hands upon the table and who have since gone to the "place of many mansions"...remembering who and what we are and what we can become in Christ... remembering that we live not so much to be loved as to love, not to be served but to serve.

L - Sisters and brothers, the table is set and all are welcome to share in this meal which the Lord has given us. ALLELUIA!

P - (sing) ALLELUIA....

L - This is the Body and Blood of Christ the Redeemer. Take and eat it. I pray that you would recall this moment often during the coming week, and remember that you received our Lord, who took human form to walk among us; to redeem us and save us, and bring us the Good News that we are loved by God the Creator of us all.
With this knowledge, eat this meal in love and in peace and celebrate the light of Christ which shines within you. Amen.

Thanksgiving Prayer:

P - Almighty God, you sent Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself: We praise and bless you for those whom you have sent into our lives, in the power of the Spirit, to guide us in the ways of the Gospel. We thank you that right here, this evening, a community of friends has been gathered by their prayers and labors, and that wherever we may go from here, we can always call upon your Name, for the Kingdom and the power and the glory are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

Sung Thanksgiving:

Now our God is with us. Let us make thanksgiving,
For the joy within us living.
In this holy temple, at this holy table,
Hope and life God will eneable.
Now we leave, and believe - That God will restore us,
For the work before us. Amen.

Closing Hymn:(to be announced)

Benediction: Romans 5:1-5

L - Now that we have been justified through faith, let us continue at peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have been allowed to enter the sphere of God's grace, where we now stand.
Let us exult in the hope of the divine splendor that is to be ours. More than this: let us even exult in our present sufferings, because we know that suffering trains us to endure, and endurance brings proof that we have stood the test, and this proof is the ground of hope.
Such a hope is no mockery, because God's love has flooded our inmost heart through the Holy Spirit, whom God has given us.

L - And now may God who made us, Christ who saved us, and the Spirit who keeps us, be present with us now as we prepare to leave this place and each other. Amen

The Peace:

L - The peace of the Lord be with you always.

P - And also with you.

Prayer of Confession: O God, for all within us that has wounded others and caused them grievance, we ask your pardon. For the malice in us, for the jealousy, and the cold heart, we pray your forgiveness. Above all, we beg your mercy for our part in the general misery of all humankind -- that which sets us against each other because you have created us different in color, birthplace, body, or affection. Forgive our deaf ears that will not hear, the blind eyes that will not see. Awaken our pity, strengthen our love; through Jesus Christ who came to save and set free. Amen.

The Breaking of Bread/the Blessing of Wine

(All are invited to the Table. We serve an open communion in which the wafer is tinctured and placed on the tongue of the recipient. A moment of private prayer is held between the minister and those receiving.)

Sung Thanksgiving:
Now our God is with us, let us make thanksgiving
For the joys within us living.
In this holy temple, at this holy table
Hope and life God will enable.
Now we leave and believe that God will restore us
For the work before us. Amen.

Closing Hymn: Our God is Like an Eagle (Printed)

Benediction - Passing of the Peace

* * * * * * * * * *

Announcements

Today's service commemorates the deaths by fire and other forms of violence of gay martyrs. We remember those killed in the Middle Ages during the Inquisition, those killed under Hitler, those killed in the New Orleans fire of 1973, the Washington fire of 1976, the New York fire of 1977 and the latest murder here in Providence.

Monday, June 19: Open Meeting, NGTF-RI Affiliate, at 55 Eddy Street. 8 p.m.

Friday, June 23: Fund raiser for GCS-RI at the Gallery.

Saturday, June 24th: 12.00 noon. Gay Pride Parade forms at the Municipal Parking Lot.

Saturday, June 25th: Pool Paarty at the T & C. Fund raiser for NGTF-RI.

Sunday, June 25th: GAY PRIDE DAY IN NEW YORK. Christopher Street Liberation Day parade forms at Sheridan Square at 11:00 a.m. All MCC's in the District will parade following MCC NY in the line of march. Van leaves the Parsonage at 5:00 p.m. Saturday. Housing will be provided by Alpha & Omega MCC in Brooklyn, or by MCC Hispana. See Paul for ride.

Tuesday, June 27: Help Line Open Meeting.

Friday, June 30th: Coffee House at the Big Mother to benefit LFU.

Saturday, July 1: CHURCH PICNIC at Slaters Park. See Dennis for details.

FLEA MARKET -- FLEA MARKET --FLEA MARKET -- FLEA MARKET
Objects to sell, white elephants, books, crockery, china, etc. are needed. If you've been planning to clean the attic or the cellar, this is the time. We need all kinds of things to sell at our Flea Market.

Paper Drive is also in the offing. Christian Supply Center in Seekonk will pay $2.00 per hundred pounds for newspaper.

* * * * * * * * * *

Sign Making Wednesday and Thursday at the Parsonage. Come and bring a Magic Marker. We will have showcard, tacks, and sticks for do-it-yourself signs.

OUR GOD IS LIKE AN EAGLE

When Israel cam'd in Sinai, Then Moses heard the Lord
This message tell the people, and give them this my word,
From Egypt I w as with you and carried on my wind,
The whole of your great nation, from slav'ry I did bring.

Just as a mother Eagle, Who helps her young to fly,
I am a mother to you, your needs I will supply,
And you are as my children, my own who hear my voice,
I am a mother to you, the people of my choice.

If God is like an Eagle, who helps her young to fly
And God is also Father, Then what of you and I?
We have no fear of labels, we have no fear of roles,
If God's own being blends them, we seek the self-same goals.

Our God is not a woman, our God is not a man,
Our God is both and neither, Our God is I WHO AM!
From all the roles that bind us, Our God has set us free,
What freedom does God give us? The freedom just to be.

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Pink Triangle buttons are offered at the door. Please accept and war a button to remember the 250,000 gays who died in the Nazi concentration camps.

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Church Staff: Pastor, Rev. Marge Ragona
Staff Minister: Rev. Michael Nordstrom
Clerk: Ms. Sally Gabb; Treasurer: Mr. Dennis Sousa; Board Members: Ms. Mary Comerford, Mr. Tommy Evans, Ms. Belle Pellegrino.

We are one of 103 Metropolitan Community Churches throughout the United States, England, Canada, Australasia, and Africa. Our 40,000 members make us the largest single gay organization in the world. We accept <u>all</u> people into our fellowship, however, making no distinctions among people.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE
134 Mathewson Street Providence, Rhode Island
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (401)272-9247

June 18, 1978
Holocaust Memorial Sunday

Singspiration Announcements Meditation

Call to Worship: L: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.
P: Then our mouths were filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.
L: Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."
P: The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad.
L: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy!
P: The One that goes forth weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing the sheaves and harvest.

Hymn: O God, Our Help in Ages Past (V.1-3, 6) #28 M

Reading from the Scripture: Rev. 7:13

Sermon: "Those Who Have Come Through the Great Oppression" Rev. Ragona

Hymn: For All the Saints (V.12-45) #536 M

Reception of New Member

Prayers of the People
Response: Hear Our Prayers, O Lord

Worship with our Tithes and Offerings
Offertory

Communion Hymn: Just As I Am #119 M

THE LORD'S SUPPER

GAY PRIDE MONTH SCHEDULE

Monday, June 5: Holocaust Memorial March. Meet at Motor Vehicle Registry parking lot, 6 p.m. Let us teach the Christian and Jewish community some facts of Gay history. 250,000 gays also went to their death during Hitler's years in Germany. Let us never forget!

Monday, June 5: Press Conference to announce suit against the Providence City Council. 12 noon, 55 Eddy Street.
Wednesday, June 6: Potluck
June 10, Saturday: 2nd Saturday at the Mediator. Speaker: Bill McCarthy of HCHS of Boston. "Meeting Community Health Needs,"and "How to Pick a Therapist".

Sunday, June 11: Open Meeting, Gay Help Line, 158 Broadway. 1 p.m.

June 12, Monday: Dinner to benefit R.I. affiliate of NGTF, call Helpline for info. on location. 751-3322. Bruce Voeller and Jean O'Leary to speak. (expensive!)

Tuesday, June 13th: Gay Political Caucus night at the Fife and Drum. Marge's birthday. You are invited to the Parsonage for Wine and cheese. Donation $2.00 (goes to the church.)

Wednesday: POTLUCK

Friday, June 16: "Part of the Process" night at Marti's.

Saturday: GAY PRIDE DAY in Boston. Rev. Marge is the featured speaker at the Interfaith Service at Arlington Street Church prior to the march. (10.00 am.) Meet at the Parsonage by 8:00 a.m. Sat. for rides to Boston. Cars and riders needed.

Sunday, June 18: Interfaith Memorial Day Service, Providence, at MCC. Invite your friends. Everyone come and bring out the rest of the gay community.

June 19: Open Meeting, N.G.T.F. of R.I. Open meeting. 55 Eddy St. 8 p.m. (Organizational meeting - $15.00 to join).

June 22: Open Meeting of "The Other Paper" at Marti's, 9:00 p.m. See sample copiesafter church.

June 23, Friday: G.C.S. night at the Gallery.

SATURDAY, June 24 - GAY PRIDE MARCH, PROVIDENCE. Meet 11:00 a.m. at Cathedral Square. March to Statehouse.

SUNDAY, June 25th: GAY PRIDE DAY, NEW YORK CITY. Rev. Marge will be in N.Y. Rev. Michael Nordstrom will be preaching and doing communion here.

Tuesday, June 27: Gay Help Line, Open meeting. 8;m, 55 Eddy St.

Friday, June 20: GCS Coffeehouse, Big Mother 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 1. CHURCH PICNIC - Slater's Park. $2.00 each, Free beer, bring your baseball glove, bat and Frisbee.

KEEP THIS SCHEDULE POST AT HOME

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE
134 Mathewson Street Providence, Rhode Island
Rev. Marge Ragona (401)272-9247

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost
June 4, 1978

Singspiration Announcements Meditation

Call to Worship: L: O Lord, who shall dwell with Thee and in thy holy house?
P: One who walks blamelessly, lives righteously, and speaks truth from the heart.
L: One who does not slander a neighbor, nor does evil to a friend.
P: One who does not live by reproaching others, but who honors those who fear the Lord.
L: One who accepts hurt from others and does not change; one who does not bear false witness against anyone.
P: The one who does these things shall not be cast out from God's presence. (From Ps. 15)

Opening Hymn: My God and I FC #15

Scripture Reading: Matthew 21: 28-33, I Thessalonians 5:14-23

Sermon: "Don't Switch off the Spirit" Rev. Ragona

Hymn: Spirit of God (vss. 1-2, 4-5) M 138

Prayers of the People
Response: Hear Our Prayers, O God

Worship with our Tithes and Offerings
Doxology

Communion Hymn: Let Us Break Bread Together FC 44

The Lord 's Supper
Prayer of Confession: God, so much of the time we turn to you only when we want special favors for ourselves. We ask your direction in our lives only when it coincides with the way we want to go. We want your power only when it will help us with our own pet projects. We ask your sanction for our ambitions. We ask you for a blank check to fill out any way we want. Help us to listen for what is truly your will in our lives. Help us to be open to being used by you rather than using you. In Christ's name we pray the prayer Jesus taught us while present with us ... (Our Creator...)

Prayer of Thanksgiving - Sung Thanksgiving
Now our God is with us, let us make thanksgiving
For the joy within us living.
In this holy temple, at this holy table
Hope and life God will enable.
Now we leave, and believe that God will restore us
For the work before us. Amen.

Closing Hymn: There's a Church Within Us, O Lord FC 52
Benediction
* * * * * * * * * * * *

Tonight at coffee hour: DRAWING for prizes in our 50/50 raffle. See Rev. Marge immediately after service if you have tickets and money to turn in. We counted $375.00 in tickets turned in -- making prizes worth $93.75, $56.25, and $37.50. The church made $187.50.

Basic budget, without pastor's salary, is nearly $90.00 weekly. We have been taking in $63.00. Rev. Marge is going back to work as soon as possible. We need to keep our offering up and/or take in at least $100.00 a month more. We are planning a Flea Market and need salable goods. Please bring to Parsonage, or call us for pick-up. Also collect newspapers. We can sell them for $2.00 per hundred pounds.

NEXT SUNDAY IS REV. SHELLEY HAMILTON's installation at Worcester. If you have goodies for her "pounding" please bring them to the Parsonage. We have the startof a good grocery basket. Remember, please that she is a vegitarian. Nuts, beans and grains are particularly needed. Honey, herb teas, also appreciated.

Communion Hymn: The Old Rugged Cross M228

The Lord's Supper
Prayer of Confession: O God, O Myeterious One: You see us as we are, a people both for and against you, a people caring for and yet indifferent to the needs of others. We confess our part in the world's rage, and our neglect when we should have spoken out for justice and were silent. We admit our part in humanity's sorrow. We know well our part in a thousand unnecessary curelties, small and large. For these acts, for the brokenness which becomes malice in us, we beseech thy forgiveness. Amen.

Words of Assurance: Jesus said, You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free. We know the truth of God's love and are set free to walk in newness of life. Amen

The Breaking of Bread/The Blessing of Wine

Sung Thanksgiving:
Now our God is with us, let us make thanksgiving
For the joywithin us living
In this holy temple, at this holy table
Hope and life God will enable
Now we leave and believe that God will restore us, for the work before us. Amen.

Closing Hymn: This is My Song M 542

Benediction / Passing of the Peace

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Rev. Ragona returns to work in Boston this week. If there is a need to reach her, please call the parsonage in the evening.

Have a safe and happy 4th of July.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE
134 Mathewson Street Providence, R.I.
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (401) 272-9247

Sunday, July 2, 1978
8th Sunday in Pentecost

Singspiration Announcements Meditation

Call to Worship:
L: The word of the Lord is upright; all of God's work is done in faithfulness.
P: Our God loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.
L: Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.
P: The people whom God has chosen as a heritage.
L: Behold the eye of the Lord is on those who fear God.
P: On those who hope in God's steadfa st love.

Opening Hymn: Faith of the Ages (Printed)

Reading from the Scripture Psalm 50:7-22
Sermon: "No Bull" : God Rev. Ragona

Hymn: Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory M.545

Prayers of the People
Response: Hear Our Prayers

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings
Doxology: Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly host
Praise God and Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Faith of the Ages

Faith of our ancestors, living still,
In spite of dungeon, fire and sword,
O, how our hearts beat high with joy,
Whene'er we hear that glorious word:

Refrain: Faith of the Ages, living faith,
We will be true to thee till death.

Our forebears chained in prisons dark,
Were still in heart and conscience free,
And blest would be their children's fate,
If they, like them, would faithful be.

God of all people, thy great love,
Shall win all nations unto thee,
And by the power thy truth imparts,
Humanity shall all be free.

Faith of our ancestors, we will love
Both friend and foe in all our strife,
And preach thee, too, as love knows how,
By kindly words and virtuous life.

(Words improved by the Ecumenical Women's Center, Chicago.)

* * * * * * * *

There were ten of us at the picnic Saturday, and we had a good time at Roger Willams Park. The celebration continues with activities on Monday and Tuesday. You might go to the concert and fireworks Tuesday at 7:00 - Music Temple. Next Sunday at 2:00 the New Black Eagle New Orleans Jazz Band is playing. Free.

Church Staff: Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor; Rev. Michael Nordstrom, Staff Minister, Rev. Jody Stiles, Exhorter-Candidate.

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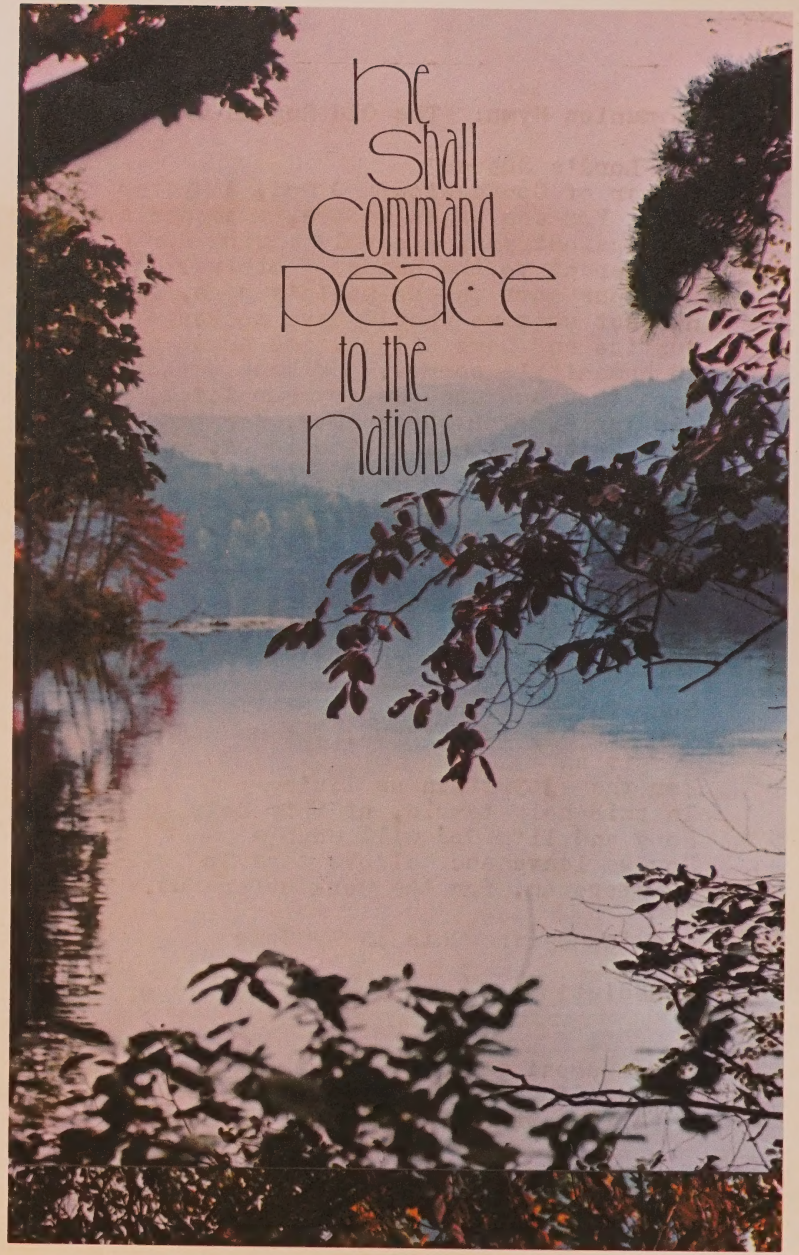

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Closing Hymn: This is My Song M 542

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Church Staff: Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor; Rev. Michael Nordstrom, Staff Minister, Rev. Jody Stiles, Exhorter-Candidate.

*Indicates congregation standing

At 1:30 o'clock the candles will be lighted and there will be a call to worship, affording a place and time for contemplative quiet, centering and prayer, and preparation for community worship. The hymnsing will begin at about 1:50

Welcome and Announcements, 2:00 PM.....Ms Audet
Prelude — David Jean
The Call to Worship — Ms Audet
*Hymn "Come Along to this Land" — Choir & Cong.
*The Prayer of Invocation — Rev Ragona
Confession/Affirmation — Ms Audet

Lord God, Creator of us all, we confess to you that we have sinned; in what we have done and what we have failed to do. What we have said and what we have left unsaid. In our thoughts, our words and actions. Aware of these shortcomings, and knowing you to be a God of forgiveness and love we ask your pardon and blessing upon us. AMEN

Silence
Declaration of Absolution — Rev. Hamilton
A reading from the book of Isaiah — Chap 6, vrs 1-9

*Hymn "I've Been 'buked" — Choir of MCC/New York

Sermon — Rev. Ziegler

*Hymn — Congregation & Choir

The Prayers of the People, Shared Concerns and Celebrations and the Lord's Prayer. — Rev. Ragona

(A suggested version of the Lord's Prayer follows. Choose a word that expresses the personal way you have come to experience your need for God: Mother, Father, Friend, Liberator, etc)

Our --- in heaven, holy be your name. Your domain come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test but deliverus from evil. For the domain, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. AMEN.

Offering. (While the offering is being received the choir will sing:)
Hymn "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

The Installation of Reverend Hamilton by the Board of Directors of MCC/Worcester and presentation of the symbolic instruments of the ministry.

Greetings from the Board of Home Missions, Northeast District, Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Church. — Ms Jean Gralley
Meditational Hymn — Guest Soloist MCC/NYC
Organ Meditation — David Jean
Commemoration of the Lord's Last Supper, the breaking of bread and pouring of wine.
Reverends Hamilton & Ragona
The invitation to the table of the Lord.

* Benediction

Closing Hymn and the sign of peace:
"Those Who Wait Upon the Lord"

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to the Choir of MCC, New York City, the Reverends Ragona and Ziegler and Ms Gralley for sharing this day of joy and celebration with us. Also, we thank the Lord, our God, for making this whole day possible.

Yours In Christ,

The Board of Directors,
Members and Friends of
MCC Worcester

Reception immediately following the service

Metropolitan Community Church
of
Worcester

INSTALLATION SERVICE
Of
Reverend Shelley A. Hamilton
Sunday, July 9, 1978

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE
134 Mathewson Street Providence, R.I.
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (401) 272-9247

Sunday, August 13, 1978
Memorial Service for Scotty Shand

Medication Announcements

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear?
P: The Lord is my life's refuge;of whom shall I be afraid?
L: When evildoers come at me to devour me; my foes and my enemies stumble and fall.
P: Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear;
Tog: Though war be waged against me, even then will I trust.

Hymn: A Mighty Fortress is Our God Printed

Memorial for Scotty Shand

God of Compassion: You watch the ways of humanity, and weave out of terrible happenings wonders of goodness and grace. Surround those who have been shaken by tragedy with a sense of your present love, and hold them in your faith. Though they are lost in grief, may they find you and be comforted; through Jesus Christ who was dead, but lives and rules this world with you. Amen.

Eulogy for Scotty Shand

All things are new in your grace, Lord God, and old things pass away. Your justice will reign, and those who are victims of oppression, who are scorned by their neighbors, and who have learned to live in fear will be lifted up. You know us by name. Teach us to trust only in you, for the sake of Jesus Christ, also a victim of cruelty. Amen.

HYMN: Rock of Ages M.120

Reading from the Scripture
Isaiah 56: 1-8
Luke 8: 22-25

Sermon: "Where Is Your Faith?"
Rev. Marge Ragona

Hymn: Blessed Assurance M.224

Prayers of the People
Response: Hear Our Prayers

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Doxology: Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above, ye heavenly host
Praise God and Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Confession: God, we confess that we are frightened by the violence and hatred we see rampant in our society anf feel sometimes in ourselves. Forgive us for our lack of understanding a nd love. Help us to bear up under hatred and persecution and courageously stand for peace and justice. Grant that we may see in death the opportunity for completed purposes, fuller attainment, and perfection of imperfection. May we realize in Christ the life that death cannot take away nor the grave destroy. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Communion Hymn: Let All Mortal Flesh M324

The Breaking of Bread/The Blessing of Wine

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sung Thanksgiving:

Now our God is with us, let us make thanksgiving
For the joy within us living.
In this holy temple, at this holy table
Hope and life God will enable.
Now we leave, and believe
That God will restore us, for the work before us.

Closing Hymn: Take the Name of Jesus M.87

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A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

A mighty fortress is our God;
A bulwark never failing.
Our rock and shelter 'mid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing.
For still oppression reigns;
We live in slavery's chains.
But freedom's day shall come!
All peoples shall be one,
Or we will die divided.

Did we in our own strength confide,
Our struggles would be senseless.
Were not the Spirit on our side,
Our cause would be defenseless.
For we are not alone;
We place our faith in one,
The Living God by name,
From age to age the same,
Who is our liberation.

That word beyond all earthly powers,
Endures through time forever.
The Spirit and the gifts are ours,
No tyrant shall us sever.
Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also,
The body they may kill;
God's truth abideth still,
Whose way is perfect freedom.

Isaiah 56:1,6-8

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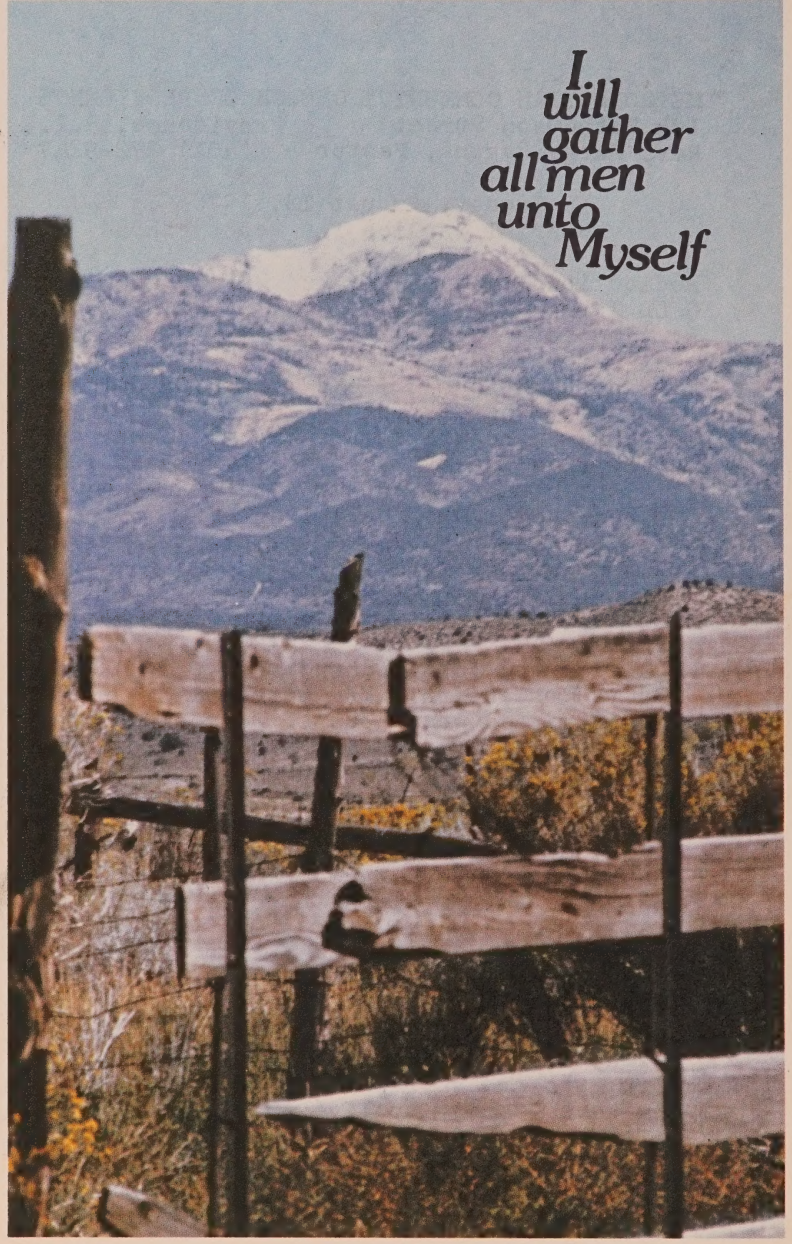

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE
134 Mathewson Street Providence, R.I.
Rev. Marge Ragona (401)272-9247

MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 1978

Singspiration
How Great Thou Art #17 Meth.
Our God Is Like An Eagle - Printed
Pass Me Not ##45 Meth.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Judith 16:13-16)
L: O Lord, Thou art great and glorious, wonderful in strength, invincible.
P: Let all thy creatures serve thee, for thou didst speak and they were made,
L: Thou didst send forth thy Spirit, and it formed them: there is none that can resist thy voice.
L: To those that love thee, thou wilt continue to show mercy,
P: They that fear the Lord shall be great forever.

Hymn: We've A Story to Tell to the Nations Meth. 410

Invocation

Reading from the Scripture

Sermon Rev. Elder Troy Perry

Hymn: Sweet, Sweet Spirit Printed

Prayers of the People
Response: Hear Our Prayers

Worship with Our Offerings
Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above, ye heavenly host
Praise God and Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Communion Hymn: There Is a Fountain M.421

Prayer of Confession
God: We know how often our world is torn by hatred and misunderstanding, and we know how much this pains you. We know that we are not personally responsible for all of this tornness, but we also know we stand guilty for some of it. There have been times when we have been quick to accuse and slow to forgive. There have been times when we have let small differences mushroom into vast difficulties while at the same time we ignore important understandings that should be drawing us together in love. For our tendency to push hate before love and angry accusation before patient understanding, forgive us God. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

The Lord's Supper

Sung Thanksgiving
Now our God is with us, let us make thanksgiving
For the joy within us living
In this holy temple, at this holy table
Hope and life God will enable.
Now we leave, and believe
That God will restore us for the work before us.

Benediction
Passing of the Peace
* * * * * * * *
We welcome you to this service, and invite you downstairs for refreshments and conversation afterward.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tonight we welcome Rev. Elder Troy Perry, the founder and moderator of the International Board of Elders of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, who is making a tour of the country to support the fight aga inst the Briggs Initiative in California. This is the first time in nearly three years that Troy has been in this area, and we extend a hearty and warm welcome to him.

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We also welcome political figures Norman Jacques, who is running for Senate, and Sr. Liz Morancy, who is running for State House of Representatives. We need to support those who support us.

MCC Fall programming includes a 12-session rap series called "The Gay Life -Rules, Roles and Relationships." Some of the sessions will deal with "Coming Out," "Role Playing - Butch-Femme, S and M, and Others," and "Gay and Grey." Raps will be on Tuesday nights, 7:30 at 5 Junction Street. Wine and cheese to follow. (Begins first Tuesday in Sept.)

Also in the Fall -- Every Thursday night at 7:30 -- Bible Study -- Our first topic will begin an overview of the New Testament, "The World Jesus Lived in." First Thursday in September, and every Thursday to follow.

Potlucks will discontinue in the fall, with the exception of the Last Tuesday, when the rap session will include a potluck. We are beginning to need more space for people to deepen their spiritual life, now that we are fairly close as a church family.

MCC is here for you and for the community. Grow stronger - stand taller - be a gay Christian

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE
134 Mathewson Street Providence, R.I.
Rev. Marge Ragona (401)272-9247

MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 1978

Singspiration
How Great Thou Art #17 Meth.
Our God Is Like An Eagle - Printed
Pass Me Not ##45 Meth.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Judith 16:13-16)
L: O Lord, Thou art great and glorious, wonderful in strength, invincible.
P: Let all thy creatures serve thee, for thou didst speak and they were made,
L: Thou didst send forth thy Spirit, and it formed them: there is none that can resist thy voice.
L: To those that love thee, thou wilt continue to show mercy,
P: They that fear the Lord shall be great forever.

Hymn: We've A Story to Tell to the Nations Meth. 410

Invocation

Reading from the Scripture

Sermon Rev. Elder Troy Perry

Hymn: Sweet, Sweet Spirit Printed

Prayers of the People
Response: Hear Our Prayers

Worship with Our Offerings
Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above, ye heavenly host
Praise God and Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Communion Hymn: There Is a Fountain M.421

Prayer of Confession
God: We know how often our world is torn by hatred and misunderstanding, and we know how much this pains you. We know that we are not personally responsible for all of this tornness, but we also know we stand guilty for some of it. There have been times when we have been quick to accuse and slow to forgive. There have been times when we have let small differences mushroom into vast difficulties while at the same time we ignore important understandings that should be drawing us together in love. For our tendency to push hate before love and angry accusation before patient understanding, forgive us God. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

The Lord's Supper

Sung Thanksgiving
Now our God is with us, let us make thanksgiving
For the joy within us living
In this holy temple, at this holy table
Hope and life God will enable.
Now we leave, and believe
That God will restore us for the work before us.

Benediction
Passing of the Peace
* * * * * * * *
We welcome you to this service, and invite you downstairs for refreshments and conversation afterward.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tonight we welcome Rev. Elder Troy Perry, the founder and moderator of the International Board of Elders of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, who is making a tour of the country to support the fight aga inst the Briggs Initiative in California. This is the first time in nearly three years that Troy has been in this area, and we extend a hearty and warm welcome to him.

* * * * * * * *

We also welcome political figures Norman Jacques, who is running for Senate, and Sr. Liz Morancy, who is running for State House of Representatives. We need to support those who support us.

MCC Fall programming includes a 12-session rap series called "The Gay Life -Rules, Roles and Relationships." Some of the sessions will deal with "Coming Out," "Role Playing - Butch-Femme, S and M, and Others," and "Gay and Grey." Raps will be on Tuesday nights, 7:30 at 5 Junction Street. Wine and cheese to follow. (Begins first Tuesday in Sept.)

Also in the Fall -- Every Thursday night at 7:30 -- Bible Study -- Our first topic will begin an overview of the New Testament, "The World Jesus Lived in." First Thursday in September, and every Thursday to follow.

Potlucks will discontinue in the fall, with the exception of the Last Tuesday, when the rap session will include a potluck. We are beginning to need more space for people to deepen their spiritual life, now that we are fairly close as a church family.

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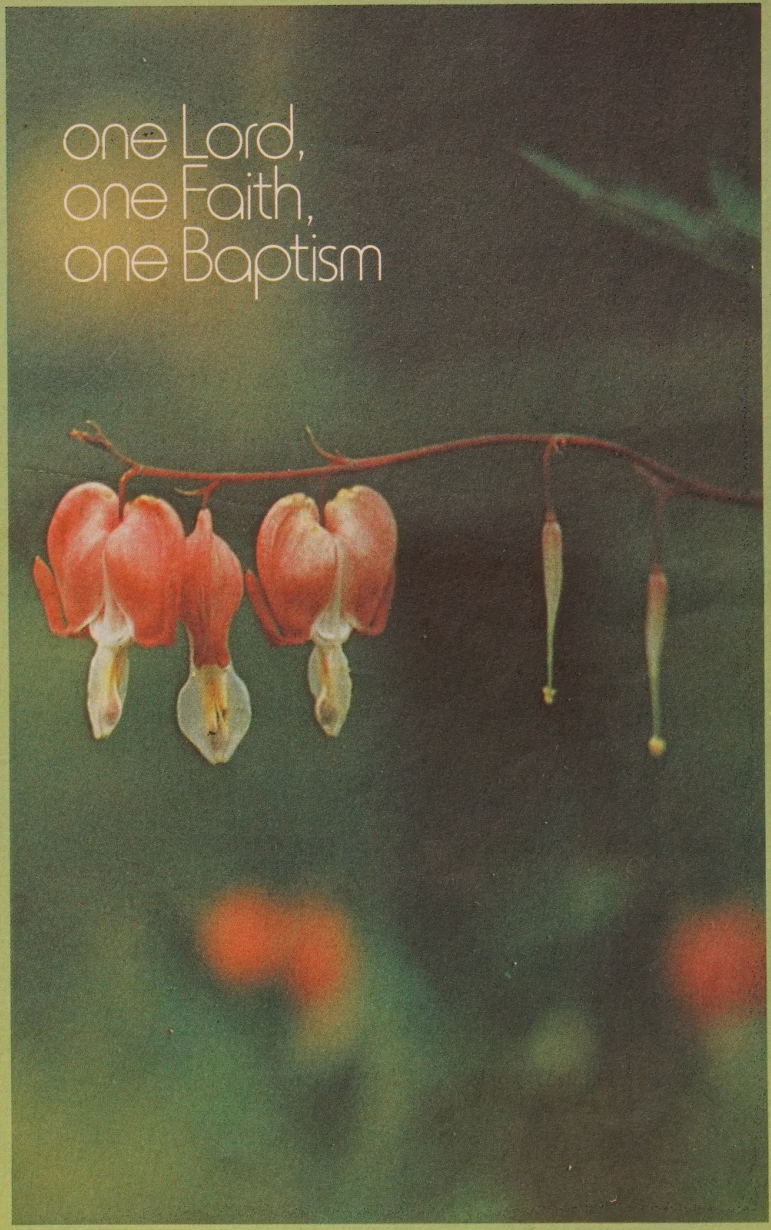


Eph. 4:1-7

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE

134 Mathewson Street Providence, Rhode Island
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (401) 272-9247

Sunday, August 20, 1978
Fourteenth Sunday in Pentecost

CALL TO WORSHIP: (From Psalm 42)
L: Why art thou cast down, O my soul? Why art thou disquieted within me?
P: Hope thou in God; for I shall yet praise my God for the help given me.
L: The Lord will command loving-kindness to me in the daytime.
P: God's song will be with me at night; with my prayer unto the God of my life.
L: Why art thou cast down, O my soul, and why art thou disquieted within me?
P: Hope thou in God: For I shall yet praise my Ruler, who is the health of my countenance and my God.

HYMN: Great is Thy Faithfulness Printed

Scripture:

Sermon: "Pilgrim -- Or Just Passing Through?" Rev. Marge Ragona

HYMN: Breathe on Me, Breath of God M 133

Prayers of the People
Response: Hear Our Prayers, O God

Offering
Doxology: Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly host,
Praise God and Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen

Communion Hymn: Jesus Paid It All SS 137

The Lord's Supper

Prayer of Confession: Loving God, there are times in all our lives, in which we fail to see the life and hope in those things which have caused us pain and suffering in our lives, personally and collectively. All odds seem to be against us, as night is against the day. It is at times like this that we fail to see what has been good in our lives, no matter how large or small.
Help us, Lord, as we join together tonight around the table you have set, to see that you loved us so that you gave us Jesus Christ to be our Light -- and that that light may so shine within us, be our hope, that we may be lights for others. Our God, help us to see that hope within us, and within others, and within You. In the name of Jesus Christ, Our Savior (followed by the Lord's Prayer... Our Creator...)

The Breaking of Bread/The Blessing of Wine

Sung Thanksgiving: Now our God is with us, let us make thanksgiving
For the joy within us living
In this holy temple, at this holy table
Hope and life God will enable.
Now we leave and believe that God will restore us
For the work before us.

Closing Hymn: Take the Name of Jesus With You M 87

Benediction/ Passing of the Peace

* * * * * * * * * * * *

We welcome you to Metropolitan Community Church of Providence. We are one of over 110 churches throughout the world -- Africa, India, Englan Australia, Canada and the United States. We are gay Christians from many backgrounds; Catholic, Protestants of many sorts, Christians of no denomination and all denominations. We meet weekly to worship our God, to call upon the name of Jesus, and to join with our brothers and sisters everywhere in praise, prayer and thanksgiving. Join us -- worship with us when you can -- feel welcome anytime you want to be with us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS are requested for: Morris Weinbaum, who will be operated on this week. He is in Miriam Hospital. Charlotte Brito, who underwent surgery two weeks ago. John Gaffney, who had surgery (open heart) two weeks ago, and is improving at Rhode Island Hospital. The fight against the Briggs Initiative.

Enclosed with your bulletin is the financial statement of the church for the past three months. We took in nearly 1/3 of our annual budget during the summer! We spent less than we took in, which is good economics, and we are current with all of our bills, which is good stewardship. God is teaching us to handle our money responsibly, and helping to provide us with all our needs. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Preliminary materials went out for District Conference in October. Please -- if you would like to help -- sign up with Connie in Fellowship Hall for committees being formed. We need help with Housing, Transportation, Food, Publicity, the Hymnal, and Registration. If you can help in any of these ways, please see Connie. (Registration people need to be able to type.) Conference is October 20, 21, 22nd. We expect up to 150 people -- and there will be no hotel rooms in Providence that weekend -- a major jewelry show is being held. That means people must be housed in homes. There will be housing for women only here at the church -- up to 25 can be housed on the 4th floor. The Methodists have agreed -- and we are grateful to them.

Rap Group begins September 5th, at the Parsonage, at 7:30. Wine and cheese follow (also coffee or punch). First topic: "Coming Out," to be folowed by "Who Do You Tell--and How?" Whole series is called, "The Gay Life -- Rules, Roles, and Relationships." Tell your friends and people who want to talk about being gay -- or being bi.

Also beginning in September: Bible Study at the Parsonage on Thursday at 7:30. First session: The World Jesus Lived In. We'll be looking at the Syrian-Greek World and the Roman Conquest in Palestine, getting the historical perspective on the world when Jesus was born. Again, tell anyone who would be interested in serious Bible study. Bring your Bible -- either a King James, a Revised Standard or a New English would be best. If you have another version, that's OK, but think about getting a scholar's Bible at some time. You may also need or want a Parallel of the Gospels.

KEVIN MENARD has been remanded to the mental health facility where he is being held for another 5 months. He needs our prayers and our letters. See Rev. Marge or Connie for his address. Richard Matera writes us regularly from Germany, where he is in the Army.

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

Great is thy faithfulness, O Thou my Lord God;
There is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be.

Chorus: Great is thy faithfulness, Great is thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hands have provided
Great is thy faithfulness, O Lord unto me.

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness,
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. (Chorus)

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow --
Blessings all mine and ten thousand beside. (Chorus)

WE ARE STILL COLLECTING FOR THE RUMMAGE SALE (FLEA MARKET), and also planning a cake sale. See Connie and/or Bunny for information about the cake sale.

Board meeting follows Potluck on Wednesday, August 30. IMPORTANT -- Please do not miss this meeting. We have some things to act on, and some plans to make. Board meetings are open to the entire congregation -- especially those involved in Project Resurrection.

SECOND SUNDAY IN KINGDOMTIDE
September 3, 1978

9 AM WJAR Radio *Worship 10 AM*

ORGAN PRELUDE
GREETINGS AND CONCERNS
INTROIT
GREETING TO THE RADIO CONGREGATION
CALL TO WORSHIP

L: In an age of machines, God, we come to you in search of a miracle.
C: WE COME, BECAUSE DESPITE THE SPECTACULAR ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR TIME, WE FEEL A LACK.
L: Despite the splendor of our technology, we feel confusion, loneliness, and the loss of meaning.
C: IN THESE MOMENTS OF WORSHIP, WE COME TO EXPERIENCE THE MIRACLE OF LOVE.
L: We come to experience the miracle of forgiveness.
C: WE COME TO BE SENT FORTH TO BEAR THIS MIRACLE TO THE HEART OF AN EMPTY WORLD.

*HYMN OF CELEBRATION NO. 483
Rejoice, The Lord is King

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I BELIEVE IN THE LIVING GOD,
THE PARENT OF ALL HUMANITY,
WHO CREATES AND SUSTAINS THE UNIVERSE
BY HIS POWER AND IN HIS LOVE.

I BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST,
THE MAN OF NAZARETH;
BECAUSE OF HIS WORDS AND WORK,
HIS WAY WITH OTHERS,
HIS USE OF SUFFERING,
HIS CONQUEST OF DEATH,
I KNOW WHAT HUMAN LIFE OUGHT TO BE
AND WHAT GOD IS LIKE.

I BELIEVE THAT THE SPIRIT OF GOD IS PRESENT WITH US,
NOW AND ALWAYS, AND CAN BE EXPERIENCED
IN PRAYER, IN FORGIVENESS,
IN THE WORD, THE SACRAMENTS,
THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE CHURCH
AND IN ALL WE DO. AMEN.

*GLORIA PATRI
SOLO *Oh Had I Jubal's Lyre*
JOANNE MOUREDJIAN, SOPRANO
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
THE WORD FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
*HYMN OF PREPARATION NO. 477
O Day of God, Draw Nigh
THE WRITTEN WORD Isaiah 58
THE SPOKEN WORD MR. TRENCH
"THE LAND OF BROKEN SYMBOLS"
OFFERING
ORGAN OFFERTORY
*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

L: Lord, to the service of your kingdom of justice and love,
C: WE CONSECRATE OUR GIFTS AND OUR TIME.
L: To preach good news to the poor, release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind,
C: WE CONSECRATE OUR HOPES AND OUR ENERGY.
L: To the work of reconciliation, of healing, of teaching, of caring for the earth and all of your children, from the least to the greatest,
C: WE CONSECRATE OUR LIVES AND OUR FAITH. AMEN.

*HYMN OF DEDICATION NO. 173
O Young and Fearless Prophet
BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE
ORGAN POSTLUDE

****

THE FLOWERS in the chancel this morning are given by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Heiss in memory of their son, Donald Lee.

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY:
11:05 AM - Fellowship Hour
7:00 PM - Fall Planning Retreat Committee meets at Barrington UMC

MONDAY: LABOR DAY - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY:
1:00 PM - Leisure and Learning Committee meets in Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY:
7:30 PM - Finance Campaign Steering Committee meets at the church

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY: Annual Fall Planning Retreat at the Barrington United Methodist Church;
Friday, 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM, Saturday, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET MADE YOUR RESERVATION TO ATTEND, PLEASE DO SO THIS MORNING IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.

****

NEXT SUNDAY

Service of Holy Communion

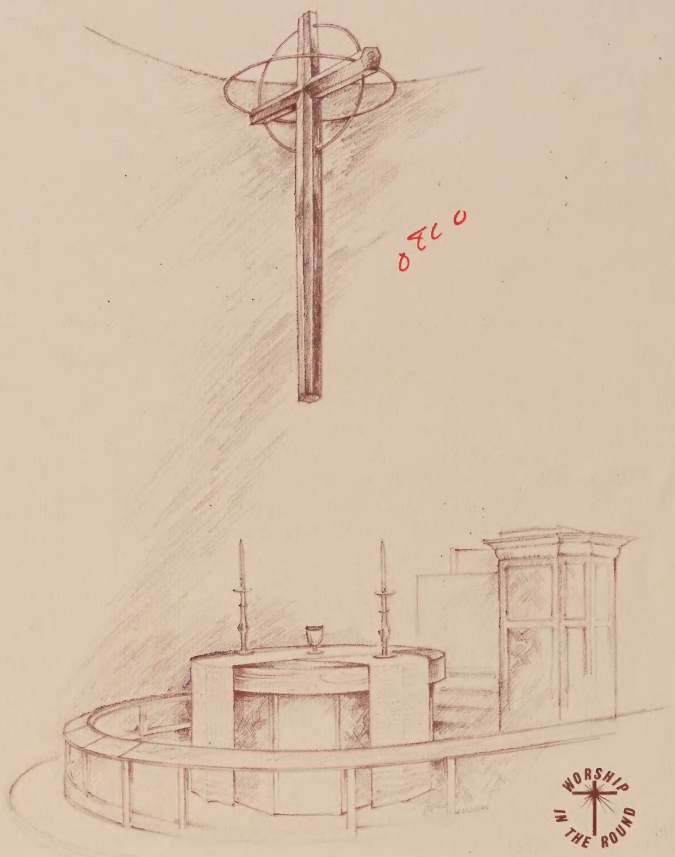
Dr. Ziegler will preach:

"GOD WANTS US HERE"

Church School Classes resume at 10:30 AM

The Quartet will resume singing.

MATHEWSON STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PROVIDENCE, R. I.



• Ministers •

Wilbur C. Ziegler

William C. Trench

• Bishop •

Edward G. Carroll

• Superintendent •

J. Gary Campbell

I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS

I have decided to follow Jesus
I have decided to follow Jesus
I have decided to follow Jesus
No turning back
No turning back.

ho' no one join me still I will follow
ho' no one join me still I will follow
ho' no one join me still I will follow
No turning back
No turning back.

he world behind me, the cross before me
he world behind me, the cross before me
he world behind me, the cross before me,
No turning back
No turning back

Take the whole world but give me Jesus
Take the whole world but give me Jesus
Take the whole world but give me Jesus
I'll follow on,
I'll follow on.

Barbara

Prayer of Confession:
We come now, Lord, confessing, each of us, our own sin; the private evil that you alone can heal, the hidden pride of heart and mind and soul which you alone can see. We also confess those which are ours as part of humanity. We beseech your mercy for our make-believe, our lack of sincerity, our flirtation with truth, and our escape from the realities of life. We know that when we come to this table our shadow is made substance by this holy bread, and as we drink of the cup that is fathomless, we may thirst no more. Enable us to hear and believe that at this table all that we have been is no more and we become new again in your sight. In Jesus' name and for his sake we pray the prayer Christ taught us here on earth... Our Creator...

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Sung Thanksgiving
Now our God is with us, let us make thanksgiving
For the joy within us living
In this holy temple, at this holy table,
Hope and life God will enable.
Now we leave and believe that God will restore us
For the work before us. Amen.

Closing Hymn: Standing on the Promises M221

Benediction: Passing of the Peace

* * * * * * * *

Join us downstairs for coffee and conversation. We welcome those who are new to MCC to our church. Come find one of our staff and introduce yourself (if we miss you - and I hope we won't)!

Fri - 1 PM

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE
134 Mathewson Street Providence, R.I.
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (401) 272-9247

Fourth Sunday in Kingdomtide
September 17, 1978

Singspiration Announcements Meditation

Barbara

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: My Lord, you are one. The one becomes the many.
P: Unity is Thy nature. Diversity is thy glory.
L: You are radiant. You are radiance of the radiant; brilliance of the bright.
P: You are in everything. You are all-pervading. You are everything. Here, there, and everywhere is your glory found.

Invoc - Connie

HYMN: Blessed Assurance M 224

Scripture Reading: John 16:32-33
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Sermon: Exhorter Phil Eberle

Sermon Hymn: I Need Thee Every Hour M265

Prayers of the People
Response: Hear Our Prayers Phil

Worship With Our Tithes and Offerings
Doxology:
Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all people here below
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise One God, Christ, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Pat

Communion Hymn: Pass Me Not M145

DISTRICT CONFERENCE: Sign up for District Conference tasks. We have sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall. We have sufficient people to handle registration (Ginny Hill, Mary Vitarelli are chairing this committee.) We need people to handle Housing, Transportation, Publicity, Food (Paul Paoletti is chairing this committee), and rrangements. See an Exhorter-Candidate if you want to help.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE will meet at the Parsonage with the Exhorters next Saturday, along with Sally Gabb to talk about the Sunday School. Any parents, volunteers or others with a desire to work with our children, please be there at NOON. (Exhorters, unless otherwise scheduled, must be there.)

HALLOWEEN PARTIES: There will be a children's Halloween party at the Parsonage on Monday October 30th, with the Exhorters giving the party. Only parents and children are invited to this one. Children may come in costumes. Donations of "TRick or Treat" candy are welcome.

Adult party will be Tuesday, October 31 with a potluck of party foods (little meatballs, hotdogs, cheese, potato chips, sliced meats, etc.) to coincide with the Tuesday rap group. All adults are invited to this one. Please try to arrange sitters for the children, so adults can enjoy themselves. (We rarely do this but Halloween is a particularly different kind of Gay Day!!)

BIBLE STUDY on Thursday. Bring your Bible and join us. Read Mark and Luke for this week.

Last week: 56 Att. Offering: $ 263.56

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLEA MARKET: Was a success. Many people contributed many interesting things -- some are unprintable!! We've heard that many of you would give the shirt off your backs - some of the gifts were even more intimate!! We made $69.00 Saturday. Sundays amount is not in yet.

WE HAVE A NEW ADDRESS FOR KEVIN MENARD. Please write Kevin, he is feeling very down about his sentencing. He received three years at Lewisburg.

Kevin Menard 23900-175
Dorm One East #8
P.O. Box 1000
Lewisburg, Pa. 17837

TUESDAY RAP SESSIONS: Again we had 20 for the rap. This week's topic: "Gay in the Workplace." Come talk about what bugs you about being gay at work, or what is rewarding. Talk about "Monday morning pronouns," or whatever.

GAY U.S.A. -- at last, Wednesday, Sept. 20th we a re showing the film, "GAY U.S.A." A lot of publicity went out, and we hope for a good turnout. If you sold tickets, please turn the money in to Bill Counts. The church family is invited to see the film. Children (if you need to bring them with you) are free. Get word out to absent members, too. Everyone in the Gay community should see this film. Let's call and let people know we're showing it.

CHARTERING PETITION is being circulated tonight. If you have not signed it, please do. We need 35 signatures. More would help. (Church members only, please.)

My God and I go in the fields
together
We walk and talk as Good
Friends should and do;
We clasp our hands, our voices
ring with laughter --
My God and I walk thru the
meadow's hue;

We clasp our hands, our voices
ring with laughter --
My God and I walk through the
meadow's hue.

God tells me of the years that
went before me,
When heavenly plans were made
for me to be,
When all w as but a dream of
dim conception --
To come to life, earth's verdan
glory see;
When all w as but a dream of di
conception --
To come to life, earth's ver-
dant glory see.

My God and I will go for aye
together
We'll walk and talk and jest
as Good Friends do;
This earth will pass, and with
it common trifles --
But God and I will go unending
This earth will pass and with
it common trifles --
But God and I will go
unendingly.

Prayer of Confession: (In Unison)
O Living God, we know that we often fall short of the goals You have set for us. We are afraid and our fear sometimes causes us to hurt others whom we love. We push away those who care. We feel lost and feel that no one cares. We lose trust in you and in those who love us. We question our beliefs; we question our very being. Forgive us our mistrust. Forgive us for all the hurt we have created. Give us your love and understanding. Give us your forgiveness for all the things we have done wrong. Guide us in your path, and grant us your salvation. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THE LORDS SUPPER Rev. Michael Nordstrom

Sung Tha nksgiving:
Now our God is with us, let us make thanksgiving
For the joy within us living
In this holy temple, at this holy table
Hope and life God will enable.
Now we leave and believe that God will restore us
For the work before us. Amen.

Closing Hymn: They'll Know We Are Christians Printed

Benediction

* * * * * * * * * * *

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW COFFEE HOUR HOSTS: Evelyn Valley and Lynn Buskey have volunteered to host the coffee hour for the fall. We welcome their assistance! Please meet us downstairs for coffee and... conversation and... (Thanks to those who donated coffee and cookies, particularly Evelyn, Lynn and Mary Comerford.)

Tuesday, Sept. 26: Rap "Roleplaying: Butch-Femme, S/M,B/D" at the Parsonage, 5 Junction Street, 7:30 p.m., wine and cheese to follow.

Thursday, Sept. 28: Bible Study. "Jesus in the Gospels." Please read the Gospel of Luke. 7:30.

Saturday, Sept. 30: Exhorters' Meeting. Topic: The Communion service.

October 7: Hay Ride. Stepping Stone Stables, Escoheag,R.I. off Route 165, (off Route 3), watch for sign s to ranch. Meet at dusk (come earlier if you want to go horseback riding.) There will be an outdoor picnic -- bring supper.

Saturday, October 7: Meeting of the Board of Home Missions at Boston, 3:00 p.m. We will present our chartering petition at that time, along with our financial records. Pray for our church's growth as a chartered church. Next Sunday we will take in 5 new members, bringing our total to 43. Anyone who wishes to become a member, see Rev. Marge immediately after church.

Sunday, October 15: Rev. Marge will be preaching at Wellesley College at the 11:00 a.m. service. You are invited to drive over to hear her.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE: October 20,21, 22. Please begin to make your reservations as soon as possible. See me for reduced fees if you cannot pay $10.00. Fee will coverall meals during conference, and your opportunity to play host to one or more friends from MCC's out of town.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Forms are being circulated tonight asking how many people you can house for District Conference Also asking you to sign up for a committee, such as Housing, Food, Transportation, Registration, etc. Registration Committee has sufficient people, all others have no one as yet.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: On October 1, the Sunday School will break into two classes, one for younger children (under 10)and one for older children (11 and over). We are also circulating registration forms for the parents of our children to fill out. This will give us an idea of the number of children for each group, a way of getting hold of the parents for special events (like outings) and an idea of the ages. The Falcons Motorcycle Club has agreed to play Santa Claus to our children again this year. We need numbers and ages, please!

PASS IT ON

It only takes a spark to get a fire going
And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing;
That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it,
You spread God's love to everyone, you want to pass it on.

What a wondrous time is spring -- when all the tress are
budding
The birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming;
That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it;
You want to sing, it's fresh like spring, you want to pass
it on.

I wish for you my friend, this happiness that I've found --
You can depend on God, it mattors not where you're bound;
I'll shout it from the mountaintop, I want my world to know:
The Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.

BE THOU MY VISION

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom and thou my true word
I ever with thee, and thou with me Lord;
Thou my great One God and I truly thine,
Thou in me dwelling and my will be thine.

Riches I heed no, no one's empty praise
Thou my inheritance, now and always;
Thou and thou only first in my heart
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Great God of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all!

Dennis
Ernie
Mirry
Me
Mgt.
Sir
Joe Tucker
Ray Burkett
Sally

Tommy
Rusty
Arlene

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE
134 Mathewson Street Providence, Rhode Island
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (401) 272-9247

FIFTH SUNDAY IN KINGDOMTIDE
September 24, 1978

Singspiration Announcements Meditation

Call to Worship:
L: O God, Your presence is in the very air we breathe.
P: We live and stand once more in Your holy place among Your holy mysteries.
L: Now is our conversation, silent and spoken, of You; and Your words are upon our words.
P: Your strenth is upon our strengths and your love is upon our loves.
L: All is mountainous and high, all is valley and deep; We dwell in safety who dwell in thee.
P: All is praise. Hallelujah. Amen.

HYMN: Love Divine All Loves Excelling M14

Reading from the Scripture: Matt. 13:44-45
I John 4:7-12, 19-21

Sermon: The Pearl of Great Price Rev. Marge Ragona

HYMN: Be Thou My Vision Printed

HOLY UNION OF JENNY ROMANO AND GERRY MARTIN

Hymn: Pass It On Printed

Prayers of the People
Response

Worship with our Tithes and Offerings
Doxology

Communion Hymn: O Love That Will Not Let Me Go M234

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

We are one in the spirit, we are one in the
Lord
We are one in the spirit, we are one in the
Lord
And we pray that all unity will one day be
restored
And they'll know we are Christians by our
love, by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our
love.

We will work with each other, we will work
hand in hand
We will work with each other, we will work
hand in hand
And everyday we will spread the news that God
is in our land.
And they'll know we are Christians by our
love, by our love,
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our
love.

We will work with each other, we will work
side by side.
We will work with each other, we will work
side by side.
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save
each one's pride.

All praise to the One God, from whom all
things come.
All praise to Christ Jesus, God's first be-
gotten one.
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us
one
And they'll know we are Christians by our
love, by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our
love.

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
And together we 'll spread the news that God in in our land,
And they'll know we are Christians by our love by our love,
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride,

All praise to the One God, from whom all things come,
All praise to Christ Jesus, God's first begotten one,
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES

NORTHEAST DISTRICT CONFERENCE

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____
PHONE _____

HOUSING: I can house _____ adults and am willing to house ___ children.

I do not wish to house children. ___

TRANSPORTATION: I have a car and am willing to transport individuals as needed. _____
FOOD, ETC.
I would like to help with the food preparation . _____ I would like to help with setting up the dining room. _____
I would like to help with the clean up following meals. _____

REGISTRATION: I can type. ____ I would like to help with registration. _____ I would like to help arrange housing for our visitors. _____.

Clerical: I can type.____ I would like to help with the hymnal _____. I would like to help with publicity and mailings ____. I would like to help with handling telephones during the conference. _____

You can count on me for anything you haven't thought of yet, that will still need doing!

_____

6

OUR GOD IS LIKE AN EAGLE

When Israel camped in Sinai, Then Moses heard the Lord,
This message tell the people, and give them this my word,
From Egypt I was with you, and carried on my wing,
The whole of your great nation, from slav'ry I did bring.

Just as a mother eagle, who helps her young to fly,
I am a Mother to you, your needs I will supply,
And you are as my Children, my own who hear my voice,
I am a Mother to you, the people of my choice.

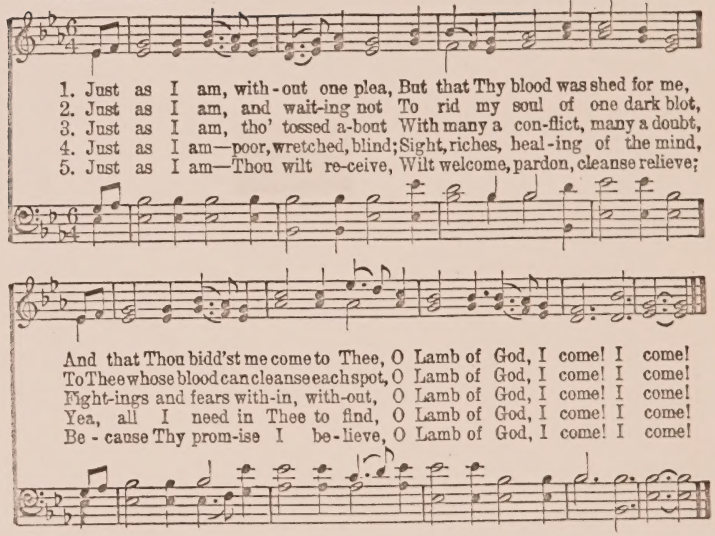
If God is like an Eagle, who helps her young to fly,
And God is also Father, then what of You and I?
We have no fear of labels, we have no fear of roles,
If God's own being blends them, we seek the self-same goals.

Our God is not a woman, our God is not a man,
Our God is both and neither, our God is I Who Am,
From all the roles that bind us, our God has set us free,
What freedom does God give us, the freedom just to be.

30

Just As I Am

CHARLOTTE ELLIOTT — WILLIAM B. BRADBURY



Pass It On

17

K.K.

Kurt Kaiser

D F♯m G A

1. It ___ on-ly takes a spark to get a fire ___ go-ing, ___
2. What a won-drous time is spring — when all the trees are bud-ding, ___
3. I ___ wish for you my friend, this hap-pi-ness that I've found — ___

D F♯m G A

And soon all those a-round can warm up in its glow-ing; ___
The birds be-gin to sing, the flow-ers start their bloom-ing; ___
You can de-pend on God, it mat-ters not where you're bound; ___

D G A7 D Em7 F♯m Bm

That's how it is with God's ___ love, once you've ex-per-i-enced it: ___ You
That's how it is with God's ___ love, once you've ex-per-i-enced it: ___ You
I'll shout it from the moun-tain top, I want my world ___ to know: The

Em7 D/F♯ G A7 D

spread God's love to ev-'ry-one, you want to pass it on. ___
want to sing, it's fresh like spring, you want to pass it on. ___
Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on. ___

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COMMISSION ON WOMEN IN MINISTRY
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST

Marriottsville, Maryland
October 26, 1978

CALL TO WORSHIP: L. Let us worship with our eyes and ears and fingertips; let us love the world through heart and mind and body.
P: Let us worship, not with bowing down, not with closed eyes and stopped ears.
L: Let us worship with the opening of all the windows of our being, with the full outstretching of our ~~xxxxx~~ spirits.
P: Life comes with singing and laughter, with tears and confiding, with a risin wave too great to be held in the mind and heart and body to those who have fallen in love with life.
Tog: Let us worship and learn to love.

HYMN: Our God Is Like An Eagle

Scripture: Gal. 3:23-28

Meditation

Hymn: Just As I AM

Prayers of the People
Prayer of Confession: O God, we admit that too often we see our lives as a burden to be borne rather than a joy to be celebrated. Forgive us for getting bogged down in all our problems and heartaches. Help us to realize the joyous miracle of your love. Help us to bear up under hatred and persecution, and courageously stand for peace and justice. In the name of the Christ, who taught us to pray, saying, "Our Maker..."

Celebration of the Lord's Supper
Alleluia

Hymn: Pass It On

Benediction/Passing of the Peace

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ASSIST AT COMMUNION OR USHER, PLEASE SEE THE TWO DEACON CANDIDATES. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUPPLY OUR COMMUNION WINE, ALSO SEE ONE OF THE DEACONS.

Tuesday: Nov. 13: Rap Group topic "Third World Gays." We have invited some third world gay people to meet with us and tell us what it is like to be a Black or minority group gay in Providence. Join us for what sounds like an exciting topic. If you have suggestions for topics for a new series, give them to Rev. Ragona.

Thurs. Nov. 16: Bible Study, the last days of Jesus' life. There will be an exam for all exhorters next week on the Synoptic gospels, exam to be handed out Thursday. Please make sure you have heard the topes or been to class, and please pick up your exam.

Saturday, Nov. 18: Exhorters' Meeting, 12 noon.

Saturday, Nov. 18: 2 pm., Prison Ministry, Christmas stocking making at the Parsonage; Next Sunday we will ask you to take a stocking and fill it for one of the prisoners at Bridgewater or the ACI.

Next Saturday, our Liaison Elder, Rev. Nancy Wilson, will be having her Holy Union with Paula. Please pray for their happiness.

Monday, Nov. 20: MOVIE AT MATH. METH. "Advise and Consent". Let's get word out to the community about our film series, and ask people to come. Price $2.00. Benefit of the church.

Tues. Nov. 21: Rap Group topic "Private Lives, Public Places."

Thursday, Nov. 23: THANKSGIVING DINNER AT THE PARSONAGE. We have received some contributions toward dinner. Anything appropriate for dinner will be welcmme. Please sign up downstairs if you are coming.

On the Tuesdays in December, we will be having Advent Groups (similar to Lenten Groups). If you would like to lead a group, or host one in your home, see the Pastor. Topics will be appropriate to the season. (Faith, Hope, Love, Joy -- Many of the ideas will be drawn from the book, "The Prison Meditations of Father Delp.")

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE

134 Mathewson Street — Providence, Rhode Island
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor — (401)272-9247

Eleventh Sunday in Kingdomtide
November 12, 1978

SINGSPIRATION — ANNOUNCEMENTS — MEDITATION

Call to worship: L. I will extol thee, my God, and bless thy name forever and ever.
P: Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.
L: One generation shall laud thy works to another and shall declare thy mighty acts.
P: On the glorious splendor of thy majesty and on thy wondrous acts shall I meditate.
L: The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.
P: The Lord is good and has compassion over all that has been made.
Tog: All thy works shall give thanks to thee, O Lord, and all thy saints shall bless thee.

Opening Hymn: Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness, O Thou, my Lord God
There is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not
As thou has been, thou forever will be.

Chorus:
Great is thy faithfulness, great is thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided,
Great is thy faithfulness, O Lord unto me.

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow --
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: We believe in God — Creator, Redeener and Life-Giver — who summons the Church to mission in the world

— To witness by word and deed to God's revelation in Christ and the acts of love by which God reconciles us.

— To evoke in us the personal response of repentence and faith through which we can find newness of life in loving relationships with God and with our brothers and sisters everywhere.

— To bring us together into a Christian community of worship and love, and to send us forth into the world as servants in the struggle for meaning and justice.

— To move us to live in awareness of the life-giving power of God's presence, in acknowledgement of God's rule over history and in the confident expectation of the final completion of God's purpose.

Reception of New Members

Hymn: Blest Be the Tie #40

Dedication of Exhorters

Hymn: I Would be True M156

Reading from the Scripture: Matthew 7: 21-27
2 Peter 3: 8-14

Sermon: "The Solid Rock".

HYMN: The Solid Rock #36

Prayers of the People
Response: Hear Our Prayers, O Lord
Hear our prayers, O Lord,
Incline thine ear to us
And grant us thy peace.

Worship with our Tithes and Offerings
Doxology: Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Praise God and Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Communion Hymn: Break Thou the Bread of Life #16

Prayer of Confession: O God, we have gone from thee, hastening down the easy ways of our prosperity, hurrying after shadows, hiding in the lonely crowd. We have prayed to thee — not to disturb us; we would like to meet thee — but not today; we hope that we may see thee — but at a respectable distance. We would like to take thee seriously — but at some other time. This is our sin, our illness, and our lostness. O thou, who didst come to forgive sinners, to heal the sick, to discover the lost ones; forgive, heal and find us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray saying, "Our Creator..."

The Lord's Supper

Sung Thanksgiving:
Now our God is with us, let us make thanksgiving
For the joy within us living.
In this holy temple, at this holy table,
Hope and life thou wilt enable.
Now we leave and believe,
That God will restore us,
For the work before us. Amen.

Closing Hymn: ~~Higher Ground~~ I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS ~~#30~~ #51

Benediction/Passing of the Peace

* * * * * * * * * *

Ministerial Staff: Pastor: Rev. Marge Ragona
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Exhorter Candidate: Pat Appleby
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Today's Ushers: Mary Vitarelli, Cindy Dumont
Today's Communion Servers: ~~Ernest Bourgeois, Stephanie Judd~~ MARY COMERFORD, CARL CORNISH

SONG LEADER: BILL MENCER

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Carleton Carnish
Carol Bartram

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE

134 Mathewson Street Providence, Rhode Island
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (401)272-9247

Eleventh Sunday in Kingdomtide
November 12, 1978

SINGSPIRATION ANNOUNCEMENTS MEDITATION

Call to worship: L. I will extol thee, my God, and bless thy name forever and ever.
P: Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.
L: One generation shall laud thy works to another and shall declare thy mighty acts.
P: On the glorious splendor of thy majesty and on thy wondrous acts shall I meditate.
L: The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.
P: The Lord is good and has compassion over all that has been made.
Tog: All thy works shall give thanks to thee, O Lord, and all thy saints shall bless thee.

Opening Hymn: Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness, O Thou, my Lord God
There is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not
As thou has been, thou forever will be.

Chorus:
Great is thy faithfulness, great is thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided,
Great is thy faithfulness, O Lord unto me.

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to bride
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow --
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: We believe in God — Creator, Redeener and Life-Giver — who summons the Church to mission in the world

— To witness by word and deed to God's revelation in Christ and the acts of love by which God reconciles us.
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Reception of New Members P. 46-48 (Red)

Hymn: Blest Be the Tie #40

Dedication of Exhorters - P. 192 - (Black)

Hymn: I Would be True M156

Reading from the Scripture: Matthew 7: 21-27
2 Peter 3: 8-14

Sermon: "The Solid Rock"

HYMN: The Solid Rock #36

Prayers of the People
Response: Hear Our Prayers, O Lord
Hear our prayers, O Lord,
Incline thine ear to us
And grant us thy peace.

Worship with our Tithes and Offerings
Doxology: Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Praise God and Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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Prayer of Confession: O God, we have gone from thee, hastening down the easy ways of our prosperity, hurrying after shadows, hiding in the lonely crowd. We have prayed to thee — not to disturb us; we would like to meet thee — but not today; we hope that we may see thee — but at a respectable distance. We would like to take thee seriously — but at some other time. This is our sin, our illness, and our lostness. O thou, who didst come to forgive sinners, to heal the sick, to discover the lost ones; forgive, heal and find us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray saying, "Our Creator..."

The Lord's Supper

Sung Thanksgiving:
Now our God is with us, let us make thanksgiving
For the joy within us living.
In this holy temple, at this holy table,
Hope and life thou wilt enable.
Now we leave and believe,
That God will restore us,
For the work before us. Amen.

Closing Hymn: Higher Ground #38

Benediction/Passing of the Peace

* * * * * * * * * *

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Today's Communion Servers: Ernest Bourgeois, Stephanie Judd

Doxology

Communion Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel #19

Prayer of Confession:

Almighty God, daily we sin and daily we repent. There is in all of us fear and love, violence and peace, blindness and sight, demon and amgel. We despoil, deface, and despise, yet we repair, renew and adore. We suffer in the guilt of our wrong-doing and cry for your mercy: we beseech your grace to be in us and upon us that we may be set free to be our best and to honor Thee in the every-day places, on the high roads of our lives, and before all people; In Jesus' name, who taught us to pray, saying, "Our Creator....

The Lords Supper

Sung Thanksgiving:
Now our God is with us, let us make thanksgiving
For the joy within us living,
In this holy temple, at this holy table
Hope and life God will enable.
Now we leave and believe, that God will restore us
For the work before us. Amen

Closing Hymn: God Rest You, Joyful People #20

Benediction/Passing of the Peace

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Every Tuesday in Advent we will be having Advent groups. The studies will be based on the book, "The Prison Meditations of Father Delp".

Tuesday, Dec. 5, 7:30 pm at Bill Mencer's 158 Broadway, Providence.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE

134 Mathewson Street Providence, Rhode Island
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (401) 272-9247

Sunday December 3, 1978
First Sunday in Advent

Singspiration Meditation

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: The Mighty One, the Lord speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.
P: Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.
L: Our God comes, not keeping silence: God calls to the heavens above and to the earth that God's people shall be judged.
P: "Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with by sacrifice!".
ALL: The heavens declare God's righteousness, for the Lord is our judge.

Opening Hymn: Hark The Herold Angels Sing #12

Lighting of the first Advent candle

Scripture: Luke: 5-15, Romans 13: 8-14

Sermon: Wake Up, It's Nearer Than You Believe!

Hymn: Joy To The World #22

Prayers of the People

Response: Hear Our Prayers

Worship with our Tithes and Offerings

Thursday, Dec. 7, 7:30 pm Bible Study. This weeks lesson will deal with Pauls life and the ministry of the early church. Read Acts 1-12, and Galatians.

Dec. 3, Christmas stockings for the prisoners are due to be returned. Please bring yours next week or take another to fill and return. See Connie during Fellowship for a list of what can and cannot go into them.

Sat. Dec. 9, Gift making for the elderly for whom we will be caroling.

Sat. Dec. 16, 7:00 pm, 5 Junction St.: Children's Christmas party (with Ms. Claus and presents.) A magician friend of Kevin Menard's will entertain and the Sunday school will present a play!

Sun. Dec. 17, 9:00 pm Drawing for the prizes in our giant Christmas raffle. Remember to sell tickets. We need volunteers to sell tickets at the Fife and The Gallery. See Bill Mencer.

Christmas Eve: Service as usual at 7:00, followed by coffee hour, film "The Red Balloon", a buffet, and midnight services of scripture and carols. Come for all or part of the evening.

New Year's Eve: Regular service at 7:00, followed by a small party at the Parsonage at 10:00. If you're not a bar person, join us.

Rejoice with us! Kevin Menard will be home in January!

Keep all our students in your prayerrs during the next 2 weeks as the term comes to an end. There are many tests and term papers to be completed.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE
I34 Mathewson Street Providence, Rhode Island
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (40I) 272-9247

Sunday December IO, I978
Second Sunday in Advent

Singspiration Meditation

Call To Worship
Leader: Behold, how good and pleasant it is when people dwell in unity.
People: It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down upon the beard, upon the beard of AAron, running down on the collar of his robes.
Leader: It is like the dew, which fallls on the mountains of Zion.
All. For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life for evermore.

Opening Hymn: Oh Come All Ye Faithful #26

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

Scripture: Luke I 26-38 Isaiah II: I-9

Sermon #Don't Look Back"

Hymn: The First Noel # 23

Prayers of the People:
Response: Hear Our Prayers.

Worship with our Tithes and Offerings

Doxology:

Communion Hymn: Silent Night. #24

Prayer of Confession: Oh Loving God, weconfess that we have so many tiies been guilty of being unforgiving Of unnessesarily carrying arount torment and pain. We refuse to forget the past. We cannot even worship it times you at times because our minds are on other things We gather material things in an attempt to be happy and realize that it doesnot help. Oh Lord help us know that you are the true light. Light our path. Lead us to do thy good works. And protect us from all the jurt which we encounter. Lift us up and keep us safe in your loving arms through Jesus Christ Our Savior who taught us to pray saying "Our Creatpr....."

The Lords Supper:

Sung Thanksgiving:
Now our God is with us, let us make thanksgiving
For the joy within us living.
In this holy temple, at this holy table
Hope and life God will enable.
Now we leave and believe, that God will restore us
For the work before us. Amen.

Closing Hymn: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear #I7

Benediction:

Passing of the Peace

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Second meeting of the Advent group will be Tuesday Deacember I2th, 7:30 pm. at Bill Mencers I58 Broadway, Providence. The Studies are based on the book "The Prison Meditations of Father Delp". Everyone is welcome. Come and spend a wonderful evening praying and praising.

Thursday December I4, &:30 pm Bible Study. Rea d the books of Acts and Galations

Wednesday Dec. I3 7:30pm Gay Community Services meeting at 55 Eddy St.

Saturday Dec. I6 7:00pm 5 Junction Street. Childrens Christmas party. Ms Claus will be there with lots of presents. Also magician w ill entertain and the Sunday School will present a play.

Sunday Dec. I7,9:00pm Drawing for the prizes in our gaint Christmas raffle. We need volunteers to sell tickets at the Fife and the Gallery. See Bill Mencer.

Christmas Eve. Service as usual at 7;00 followed by coffee hour, the film "The Red Balloon, and a Buffet. And Midnight services of scripture and carols. Come for all or part of the evening.

New Years Eve: Regular service at 7:00 followed by a small party at the parsonage at I0. If youre not a bar person join us.

Rejoice with us/ Kevin Menard will be home in January.

we will need to charge $3.00 per ticket. Please tell your friends and we will have tickets available for advance sale on January 10th. Help us make money and help the gay community enjoy this series of films which explore images of gays in the film.

Tuesday, December 26th the Parsonage will be closed to visitors. The parsonage family will be taking time to rest, recuperate, and enjoy being at home together. Please try to keep calls at a minimum, since we will have had the help-line over Christmas Day and night, and will be phoned-out.

We wish all of you a Merry Christmas — we hope you all receive the blessings you need. God bless you all, and may your New Year be God-filled and joyous.

** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** **

Our Church Staff
Pastor: Rev. Marge Ragona
Staff Minister: Rev. Michael Nordstrom (Innovative Ministries)

Exhorters: Connie DiCenzo, Phil Eberle, Barbara Kendall, and Belle Pellegrino.

Deacons: None at present

Exhorter Candidates: Pat Appleby
Deacon Candidates: Cindy Dumont, Mary Vitarelli

Board of Directors: Clerk: Mary Comerford, Treasurer: Bill Counts; Members: Ernest Bourgeois, Stephanie Judd, Bill Mencer.

** ** ** *** *** *** *** ** ** **

Special thanks tonight to Mr. Frank Murphy for providing the accompaniment to the music. Frank can be heard at the LaBoheme, where he provides atmospheric background at a popular "watering hole for our community. Thanks, Frank.

Last minute bulletin: Our prayers for a speedy recovery go to all those in the church who are enjoying a chicken-pox epidemic, including the household of Bunny Pellegrino and Margie McNeill, where young Tommy and Vanessa are ill — also Belle and Bunny Pellegrino.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE
134 Mathewson Street Providence, Rhode Island
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (401) 272-9247

Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 24, 1978

Singspiration Announcements Meditation

Call to Worship:
L: Sing to the Lord a new song, sing praise from the end of the earth.
P: Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the coastland and its inhabitants.
L: Let the desert and its cities lift up their voices, let the inhabitants of the villages shout from the highest mountain.
P: Let them give glory to the Lord and declare God's praise from shore to shore.

HYMN: "Angels from the Realms of Glory" #19

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle: LOVE
Fear not, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by my name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers and they shall not overwhelm you. When you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One, Your savior.
Because you are precious in my eyes and honored, and I love you, Fear not, for I am with you; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth; Everyone who is called by my a name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.

Reading from the Scripture: Luke 2: 1-20

Sermon: My Goodness, It's Christmas Again

Hymn: "I Heard the Bells #28

Prayers of the People
Response: Hear Our Prayers

Worship with our Tithes and Offerings

Doxology

Communion Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel #19

Prayer of Confession: O God, we avoid you when we can, because your grace cuts us down to size and your love devastates us. We have cushioned ourselves against our mortality. We have turned away from the times and places where the holy mysteries take our true measure. We want your magic but not your judgment. O make us ashamed that we can settle for the crumbs that are our plenty, and show us in the clear glass of thy coming among us how peace must speak to wars, mercy to brokenness, and love to fear. Let the blazing birth of Jesus burn us down to honesty about our need of thy hand upon us, thy joy within our hearts. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The Lord's Supper

Sung Thanksgiving:

Now our God is with us, let us make Thanksgiving
For the joy within us living.
In this holy temple, at this holy table
Hope and life God will enable.
Now we leave and believe, that God will restore us
For the work before us. Amen.

Closing Hymn: Angels We Have Heard on High #29

Benediction/Passing of the Peace

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We welcome you to Metropolitan Community Church of Providence. Please feel at home with us, and feel free to remain for the rest of the evening's program. At 9:00 p.m., we will be showing the film, The Red Balloon. Following that at 10:30 there will be a small buffet, and at midnight we will have another service — The Lessons and Carols of Christmas. You are welcome to stay for all or any part of the evening.

MCC Providence is one of the family of churches of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches in seven countries throughout the world. We have sister churches in the area in Boston, Worcester, Hartford, New Haven, New York and Brooklyn. Most of them have services at this hour and welcome you when you are in their city.

Announcements

Thanks to Bill Counts, Bill Mencer, Cindy Dumont, Belle Pellegrino, and Paul Paoletti for caroling with us at Cedar Crest nursing home — and for Mary Comerford, Belle, and Phil Eberle's help in making Crhistmas decorations for us to take to the residents. Reports are that they enjoyed our carols and we were blessed by their response. We need to make this a tradition!!

Also thanks to Connie Di Cenzo, Stephanie Judd, Bill Counts, Bill Mencer and David Giddings for joining with the prison ministry visit to the Massachusetts Correctional Institution at Bridgewater. We thank all those who filled stockings for the prisoners, and Marti's bar for filling a prison ministry can with over $25.00 which we used to fill the femainder of the stockings. Connie and Stephanie also visted prisoners at the ACI, Walpole, and Hartford and Somers on their way to Springfield for Christmas. God bless all of you for your work with these of our brothers in prison.

Christmas Day the pastor's family welcomes all those who will be alone to dinner at the parsonage. Margaret Norrington and Sue Daum dropped off a load of wood for the fireplace and Paul Paoletti provided a huge ham and trimmings. Come by and enjoy our fire, our tree, dinner and our friendship.

New Year's Eve following services there will be a small gathering at the Parsonage (5 Junction Street, Providence). If you want to avoid the crush at the bars, come join us in welcoming the New Year.

Tuesday, January 9th, 7:30 p.m. we begin the sew series of rapgroups — first topic "Homosexual, Bisexual or What??" All are welcome. Refreshments follow the rap and the conversation is good. Come and take part.

Saturday, January 6th: Exhorters' meeting, 12 noon. Deacon's meeting 2:00 p.m.

Bible Study resumes this Thursday, December 28th, with the Epistle to the Thessalonians. (7:30 p.m.)

Wednesday, January 24th, 7:30 pm at 134 Mathewson Street, our monthly movie "The Boys in the Band." Because of the price of the film ($100) [illegible] our friends.

CHRISTMAS SUNDAY
December 24, 1978

9 AM WJAR Radio *Worship 10 AM*

"I am hopeful. By this, I mean that hope, as opposed to cynicism and despair, is the sole precondition for a new and better life. Realism demands pessimism. But hope demands that we take a dark view of the present only because we hold a bright view of the future, and hope arouses, as nothing else can arouse, a passion for the possible."
- William Sloan Coffin, Jr.

ORGAN PRELUDE *Rhapsodie sur des Noels* GIGOUT
GREETINGS AND CONCERNS
LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH Isaiah 11:1-5
Ed and Cheri Markward
CHORAL INTROIT *O Rejoice, Ye Christians, Loudly* BACH
GREETING TO THE RADIO CONGREGATION
CALL TO WORSHIP

L: "Do not be afraid," the angel said;
C: "FOR BEHOLD, I BRING YOU GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY."
L: Let us taste and feel that joy now!
C: JOY IS KNOWING THAT GOD SHARES YOUR LIFE FROM THE INSIDE OUT, THAT THE WORD BECAUE OUR VERY FLESH.
L: Joy is trusting Emmanuel, "God with us."
C: JOY IS OPENING OUR HEARTS SO MUCH THAT TEARS FLOW WITHOUT SHAME, AND PRAISE CAN LEAP TO THE SKIES!
L: Joy is knowing that God loves us in spite of ourselves and forgives us beyond our deserving.
C: JOY IS HAVING THE HONESTY TO FACE OUR NEED OF GOD'S HAND ON US; LEARNING TO RUN WITH SHEPHERDS AND KNEEL WITH KINGS.
L: Joy is knowing that in this company of people, each of us is accepted - as we are.
C: JOY IS HAVING SOMEONE BELIEVE IN ME, EVEN WHEN I CAN'T.
L: Joy is knowing that the status quo of racism and war, of injustice and dishonesty, is being shaken apart!
C: JOY IS SENSING THAT WE CAN CHANGE AND OUR FAMILY CAN CHANGE AND OUR WORLD CAN CHANGE - FOR THE BETTER. BEGINNING NOW!
L: Joy is knowing that he really does have the whole world in his hands.
C: JOY IS KNOWING AS GOD TEARS ME UP HE BUILDS ME UP!
L: Joy is feeling Christ's Spirit of freedom and forgiveness within ourselves and between us.
C: JOY IS KNOWING THAT THE KING BORN IN A STABLE IS BEING BORN IN US THIS DAY. JOY TO THE WORLD!

*HYMN OF CELEBRATION NO. 392
Joy to the World
AFFIRMATION AND CELEBRATION OF THE MYSTERY OF CHRISTMAS

L: He comes to us as One unknown, without a name, as of old, by the lakeside, he came to those who knew him not.
C: HE SPEAKS TO US THE SAME WORD: "FOLLOW THOU ME!" AND SETS US TO THE TASKS WHICH HE HAS COME TO FULFILL IN OUR TIME.
L: He commands. And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal Himself,
C: IN THE TOILS, THE CONFLICTS, THE SUFFERINGS WHICH THEY SHALL PASS THROUGH IN HIS FELLOWSHIP,
ALL: AND, AS AN INEFFABLE MYSTERY, THEY SHALL LEARN IN THEIR OWN EXPERIENCE WHO HE IS.
(Albert Schweitzer, The Quest for the Historical Jesus.)

*GLORIA PATRI
RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (No. 829)
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
ANTHEM *Coronation Anthem* HANDEL
THE WORD FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
*HYMN OF PREPARATION NO. 393
Silent Night
THE WRITTEN WORD Luke 2:1-19 (NT, p. 55)
THE SPOKEN WORD DR. ZIEGLER
"THE THRILL OF HOPE"
OFFERING
OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Christmas Day* GUSTAV HOLST
*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

L: We are here as people who have received a great gift.

C: FOR UNTO US IS BORN IN THIS TIME AND PLACE A SAVIOR WHICH IS CHRIST THE LORD.

L: We are here today as people who have shared in a great mystery.

C: FOR THIS CHILD, THIS CHRIST, IS WITH US AND WITHIN US, TODAY AND EVERY DAY, NOW AND FOREVER MORE. AMEN.

*HYMN OF DEDICATION NO. 374

Angels We Have Heard on High

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE *Masters in this Hall* Traditional

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POINSETTIAS: If you are either taking a poinsettia home or delivering it to a shut-in, please be seated in the front pews following the Benediction Response. The plants will be distributed to you at that time.

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CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF LESSONS, CAROLS AND HOLY COMMUNION: Tonight at 11 PM at Grace Church. Join us!

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THE STAFF OF MATHEWSON STREET CHURCH

Ministers

Wilbur C. Ziegler William C. Trench

Church Secretary: Ann Whiting

Director of Music/Organist: Stephen Moye

Quartet

Joanne Mouradjian Al Guglielmo
Denise McMahon William Jones

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NEXT SUNDAY: Dr. Ziegler will preach...

"THE MELODY LINGERS ON"

040094 Abingdon Litho in U.S.A.